原　哲夫

今回で、第一部はとりあえずおしまいですが、島左近が登場してくる頃から、描きたいシーンがたくさん出てきまして、内容を割愛、変更した事が少々心残りではあります。ですから第二部再開の折には、イメージを蓄え、資料を集め、取材して準備万端整えて執筆に望みたいと思っております。それにつけても私自身、描いてみたいジャンルやストーリーが山積みにあって、とてもこのちっぽけな体一個では、追いつかない。口惜しい限りです。

●週刊少年ジャンプ・H7年5・6合併号～13号掲載分収録

LOVE
J-C

JUMP COMICS

6

生涯の盟友！の巻

原作 隆慶一郎
漫画 原哲夫

影武者徳川家康

影武者徳川家康 6

原作 隆慶一郎
漫画 原哲夫

★2840

集英社

★この作品は、小説「影武者徳川家康」(新潮社刊)をもとに、少年漫画誌向けにアレンジしたものです。

JUMP COMICS

影武者徳川家康

かげむしゃ とくがわいえやす

Shadow Warrior: Tokugawa Ieyasu

Volume 6: A Lifelong Friend!

生涯の盟友！の巻 6

隆慶一郎 原哲夫

Original Work: Keiichiro Ryu Manga: Tetsuo Hara

Characters

Honda Masanobu

Shima Sakon
(Katsutake)

Rokuro of Kai

Lady Kaji

Monna Sukezaemon

Suri

Tokugawa Ieyasu
(Serada Jirosaburo
Motonobu)

Tokugawa Hidetada

Yagyu Munenori

Ishida Mitsunari

Summary

The Age of the Warring States...

Many a Feudal Lord kept a decoy of himself, known as a "Shadow Warrior," by his side at all times, as a safeguard against assassination. Even **Tokugawa Ieyasu** had a Shadow Warrior who was an exact duplicate of himself. His name: **Serada Jirosaburo Motonobu**!!

In the Battle of Sekigahara, Ieyasu was assassinated; but by the expert guidance of Jirosaburo, who inherited Ieyasu's will, the Eastern Army claimed victory. The Shadow Warrior embarked to realize Ieyasu's dream of one nation under the Tokugawa, and successfully won over Ieyasu's most beloved concubine, **Lady Kaji**, who became one of his most powerful supporters. However, **Yagyu Munenori**, who knew Ieyasu's secret (the death of the real Ieyasu), presented this information to **Hidetada**, and became his confidant; together they bared their fangs to Jirosaburo.

Meanwhile, **Mitsunari**, who was hiding in the Ibuki Mountains, was captured, and taken to Osaka Castle... There he met with Jirosaburo. Though Mitsunari knew that Ieyasu was a fake, he still petitioned him not to treat **Hideyori** with cruelty. Jirosaburo, responding to Mitsunari's duty, consented. At that time, in a dry goods store in the Nishijin district of Kyoto, was **Shima Sakon**, who was thought slain at Sekigahara... He had survived the battle, with **Rokuro**'s help, but was heavily wounded and lost consciousness. On the early morning of October 1, Keicho Year 5, on the day of the Assistant Minister of Ceremonies Mitsunari's execution, Rokuro's nursing came to fruition, and Sakon awakened. Now they are heading to Mitsunari's side!!

Shadow Warrior: Tokugawa Ieyasu

Volume 6: A Lifelong Friend!

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OOH, THAT HURTS!
Chapter 43: A Wordless Parting!
I SEE... SO ALL THIS CAME TO PASS WHEN I WAS SLEEPING.
WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO IF YOU'RE CAUGHT IN YOUR CONDITION?
B... BUT IT'D BE ONE THING IF YOU WERE IN FULL HEALTH...
THAT LEG WOUND IS ESPECIALLY GRIEVOUS!
PLUS, YOU HAVE MANY ACQUAINTANCES IN KYOTO.
EVEN SOME OF MITSUNARI'S BODYGUARDS WOULD RECOGNIZE YOU! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!
IT'S NO CONCERN. IF WE JUST WEAR SOME WIDE-BRIMMED HATS, NOBODY WILL RECOGNIZE US.
!?

Chapter 43: A Wordless Parting!

ス
ポカーン
ズ
ヤ
……!
PHEW ... THIS ISN'T GOING TO WORK.
AHH... WITH THAT SORT OF GOOD BUILD, YOU THINK HE'S A SAMURAI?
IT'S THE GUEST FROM INSIDE... I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE!
NO ONE'S NOTICED THAT IT'S ME!
OHHH, LOOK!
SAKON STANDS OUT FAR TOO MUCH...
HUH?
ス
IT'S THE EXACT OPPOSITE!
……!!
ど
ギ
ス

L-LORD SAKON!
ROKUJO KAWARA.
OF COURSE...
RIGHT... THE PROCESSION HAS ALREADY LEFT HORIKAWA MIZUDE, SO AFTER THAT THEY WILL HEAD FOR THE ICHIJO CROSSROADS AND TRAVEL DOWN MUROMACHI STREET AND ENTER TERAMACHI. AND FINALLY...
KAZUMA. WHAT'S THE SCHEDULE?

MY LORD, I REALLY SHOULD GO ON MY OWN. I WILL SURELY SAVE LORD MITSUNARI!
...PHEW...

ARE YOU... GOING TO LET LORD MITSUNARI DIE?
AREN'T WE GOING TO SAVE OUR LORD?
W-WHAT DID YOU...?
I'M SAYING THAT SAVING LORD MITSUNARI WON'T BE NECESSARY.

.....
HUH!?
THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY!!

IF YOU WERE IN HIS PLACE... WOULD YOU RATHER LOSE YOUR HEAD AT ROKUJO KAWARA WITH YOUR DREAMS SMASHED...
OR HAVE YOUR ALLIES SLIT YOUR THROAT IN SECRET?
EVEN IF WE DID SAVE HIM, WHERE WOULD HE GO?
...!
HUH !?
IEYASU, THE EASTERN SUPREME COMMANDER, HAS ALREADY OCCUPIED OSAKA CASTLE. LORD MITSUNARI IS NOW NO MORE THAN A HINDRANCE TO THE TOYOTOMI...
AHH ...
IT WOULD BRING DISASTER ON THEIR HEADS. NOBODY WOULD DARE GIVE HIM AID OR COMFORT
H. HE'S RIGHT IF ANYONE DEFENDED LORD MITSUNARI,

WHAT WAS LORD MITSUNARI THINKING, LETTING HIMSELF BE CAPTURED INSTEAD OF COMMITTING SUICIDE ? AS HIS RETAINERS, WE CAN'T AFFORD TO BE IDLE!
B... BUT...
THAT'S WHY WE'RE GOING.
YOU'RE RIGHT
TO KNOW OUR LORD'S WILL.
THIS MAY BE OUR LAST CHANCE...
ISHIDA MITSUNARI'S FINALLY MEETING HIS END!
OHH, HERE THEY COME!

HUH !?
YOU THERE!
I'M THIRSTY. DO YOU HAVE ANY WATER?
AHH, YOU WANT WATER...
I SEE..
WELL, JUST GIVE ME A FEW SECONDS
DAMN. THIS IS TROUBLING.
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!

PFFFHAHAHA! YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT, YOU'LL BE BEHEADED SOON ENOUGH!
!
BUT EAT THIS INSTEAD
SORRY, THERE WASN'T ANY WATER
A DRIED PERSIMMON... PERSIMMONS ARE TOXIC TO THE LIVER. BRING ME SOMETHING ELSE.
AHH...
THERE MAY BE AN EARTHQUAKE IN THE NEXT SECOND. THERE COULD EVEN BE A FIRE.
HUH ?
ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN BE LAUGHING?
ONLY THE HEAVENS KNOW WHAT LIES AHEAD. THAT IS WHY I MUST FOREGO POISONS AND FOSTER LIFE.
HE WHO LIVES BY DUTY REGARDS HIS LIFE AS PRECIOUS UNTIL THE MOMENT HIS HEAD LEAVES HIS BODY.
!

OHHH
AHH... HE'S ELEGANT!
HMM!
IS MITSUNARI HERE NOW. !?
WHO'S THAT GIANT MAN OVER THERE?
!?
YOU SAID THESE EXPENSIVE CLOTHES WOULD MAKE US LOOK HIGH-STATUS AND THE GUARDS WOULD LET US PASS, UNNOTICED. BUT IT'S THE EXACT OPPOSITE!
THERE'S NO WAY WE WON'T STAND OUT, DAMN KAZUMA.
KOH.

HERE HE COMES
!
.....
!
MY LORD
I WON'T IF YOU GO ANY FURTHER, YOU'LL BE IN DANGER.
LET GO, ROKU-RO
!

!!
M... MY LORD !!
OOH !!
AH! OW!
HUH?
I HAVEN'T SEEN MY LORD LIKE THAT IN SO LONG.
WHAT A QUIET FACE HE HAS.

MY LORD, YOU'RE MAKING TOO MANY ENEMIES. YOU NEED TO BE A LITTLE MORE BROADMINDED.
AND BESIDES, WHAT GOOD HAVE THEY EVER DONE? MY JUDGMENT IS INFALLIBLE!
HE DARES MOCK THE WORK WE'VE GIVEN OUR LIVES TO!
THIS IS NONSENSE! I REFUSE TO DEAL WITH HIM!
MY LORD..
DAMN THOSE GREEDY MISERS!

LISTEN, SAKON
!
I KNOW THAT FULL WELL!! BUT DON'T YOU THINK THEY TREAT DUTY TOO LIGHTLY?
YOU NEED TO LISTEN MORE OFTEN. THE WORLD OF MEN DOES NOT RUN ON DUTY ALONE.
NO MAN IS WITHOUT EMOTIONS.
IF THAT IS FUNNY TO YOU, THEN LAUGH! I DARE YOU!
I THINK IT WOULD BE AN HONOR TO DIE OUT OF LOYALTY TO HIS EXCELLENCY!

AND IF IN LATER GENERATIONS, PEOPLE REMEMBER ME, SAYING "YES, THERE WAS SUCH A MAN, EVEN BACK THEN,"
I WILL HAVE REACHED MY GOAL.
MANY IN THESE DAYS MAKE LIGHT OF DUTY AND SAY FOOLISH AND IMMATURE THINGS. BUT THESE ARE THE TIMES IN WHICH DUTY MUST BE HELD ALL THE HIGHER!
EVEN IF I ALONE ADHERE TO MY DUTY, THAT IS SUFFICIENT
...!
M...MY LORD! YOU MUST NOT DO THAT!

!?

GGH.
Mitsunari tried to smile, but he only managed a slight wrinkle at the corners of his lips.

HE'S TALKING WITH HIS HANDS !?
DON'T BE RASH, SAKON.
I HAVE PREPARED MYSELF TO DIE!

I HAVE MET WITH IEYASU
HE WAS INDEED A FAKE.
These two had practiced talking by gestures since the times of peace.
M...MY LORD.
.....!!
.....!
YES.
BUT THIS FAKE HOLDS GOOD WILL TOWARDS LORD H'DEYORI.
AND THE FAKE HAS ALSO PROMISED TO PROTECT LORD H'DEYORI
H WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
KEEP THAT IN YOUR MIND
AND SEE IT THROUGH!
.....!?

PROTECT HIM IN MY PLACE! THAT IS MY LAST REQUEST
I WILL LEAVE THE TOYOTOMI AND LORD HIDEYORI TO YOU
SAKON!
.....
HMM?
MY LORD ...
I UNDER-STAND.

YEAH.
WERE YOU... TALKING IN SIGN LANGUAGE?
DID YOU UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING HE SAID?
!!
I HAVE NO DOUBTS.
MY LORD AND I HAVE BEEN PRACTISING THIS SINCE TIMES OF PEACE.

THERE COULD BE OTHER TIMES WHEN HE COULDN'T SPEAK.
YOU MEAN FOR WHEN HE WOULD BE CAP-TURED?
IT'S JUST LIKE TWO CHILDREN PLAYING ...
THEY PRACTISED THAT TO-GETHER...
TO THINK THERE WOULD BE A LORD AND SERVANT WHO COULD DO THAT

HUH!?
WE'LL HEAD OVER TO ROKUJO KAWARA.
WHAT WOULD HE DO IN HIS FINAL MOMENTS WITHOUT ME?

DO YOU REALLY THINK OUR LORD WOULD WRITE ONE?
AND HEAR HIM READ HIS FINAL POEM, RIGHT?
I MUST SEE IT WITH MY OWN EYES...
HE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THEM.
MY LORD CARES NOT FOR THEA-TRICS, NOR DOES HE CRAVE AT-TENTION.

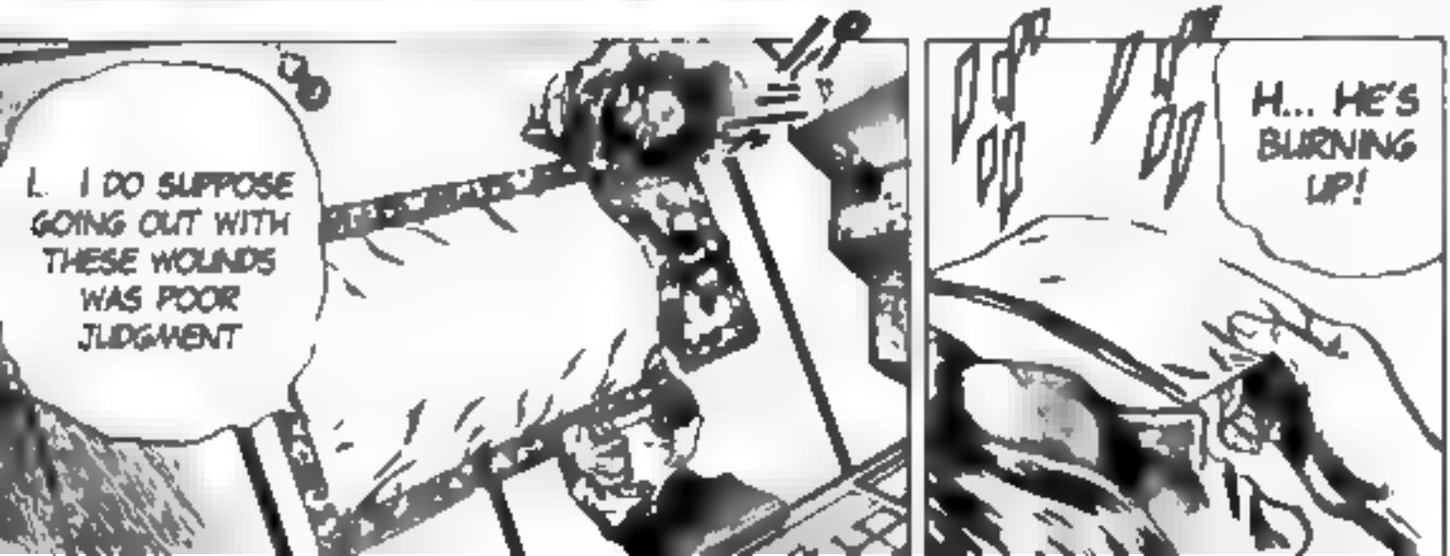
WA HA HA HA HA!
Rokujo Kawara
Mitsunari did not even write a final poem...
GO AHEAD. I NEED NO TEN PRAYERS.
He even refused the ten prayers* of a pilgrim.
.....
* TEN PRAYERS. CHANTING ONE'S PRAYERS TO THE BUDDHA TEN TIMES.
I CANNOT WAIT TO TELL HIS EXCELLENCY ABOUT ALL THESE HAPPENINGS, IN THE OTHER WORLD!
FWAH HAHA HA!
And leaving his last will only to Sakon...
On October 1, at the age of 41, Ishida Mitsunari died.

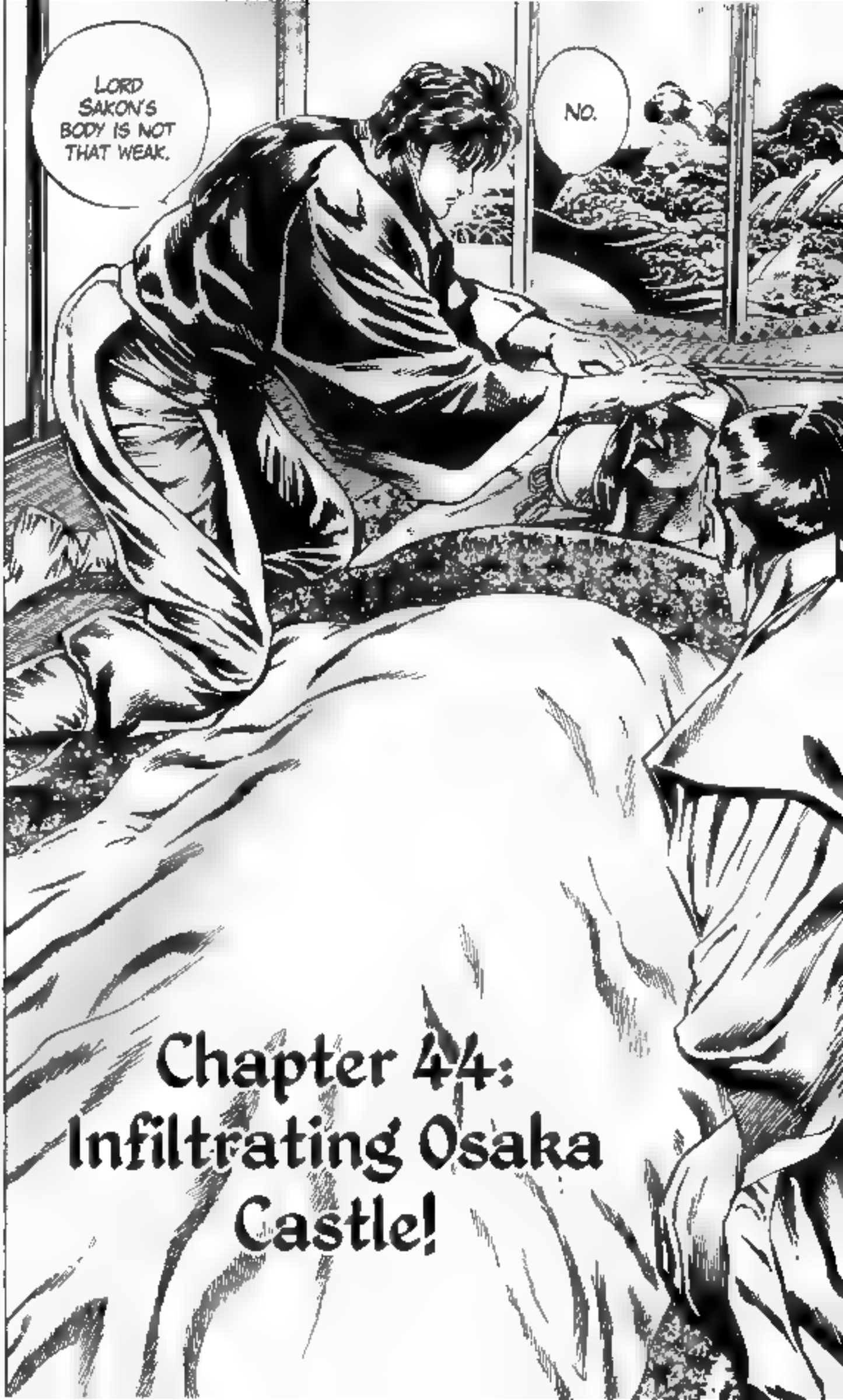
Shadow Warrior: Tokugawa Ieyasu

Chapter Forty Three

Presented by Hokuto no Gun
Translated by SystematicChaos
Proofread by Wright
Edited by Akrowmata

Chapter 44: Infiltrating Osaka Castle!





Chapter 44: Infiltrating Osaka Castle!

B... BUT...
HE HE DOESN'T L. LOOK LIKE LORD SAKON AT ALL!
N. NO.
THIS IS. MERELY THE ANGUISH DWELLING IN HIS HEART OVER LORD MITSUNARI'S DEATH. HE WON'T DIE FROM THIS.
H...HE ALMOST LOOKS LIKE...
ALMOST LOOKS LIKE AN OLD MAN ... AT THIS RATE, LORD SAKON WILL ...
NO! LORD MITSU-NARI'S CALLING HIM!
LORD SAKON'S GOING TO FOLLOW LORD MITSU-NARI...
!

HIS FEVER STILL WON'T GO DOWN... DON'T TELL ME, MY LORD.
Then on the fourth morning
For three days and nights Rokuro stayed by Sakon's side and nursed him to health, but his fever would not go down.

I'M HUNGRY.
AHH... ROKURO
L. LORD SAKON!

!?
I... I-I- I DON'T BELIEVE IT...
THAT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS!!
PHEW THAT WAS FILLING!
W... W... WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED?
T THAT'S RIGHT T THIS MUST MEAN LORD MISTUNARI'S DEATH HAS SET LORD SAKON'S HEART AFIRE!
!
IT'S ALL THANKS TO MY LORD! HE GAVE THE REST OF HIS LIFE TO MY OLD BONES!
HUH!?
WHAT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS?

THERE'S NO OTHER WAY HE COULD HAVE RECOVERED LIKE THIS.
INDEED... YOU LOOK MUCH YOUNGER, MY LORD.
AND I HAVE A REASON TO STAY ALIVE.
WHAT IS THAT !?

TO TAKE THE HEAD OF LORD TOKUGAWA!
WHAT REASON DO YOU HAVE TO LIVE ON?
ROKURO ?
!!
MY LORD MITSU-NARI MADE THAT CLEAR. WHAT POINT WOULD THERE BE TO TAKING A FAKE'S HEAD?
THAT IS A FAKE.
GIVE IT UP. IT'S POINT-LESS.
NO, IT IS.
I-... IT'S NOT POINT-LESS!
!?
ON TOP OF THAT, HE EVEN PROMISED TO PROTECT LORD HIDEYORI...
FROM WHAT MY LORD SAYS, THE CURRENT LORD IEYASU HARBORS GOOD WILL TO-WARDS LORD HIDEYORI..
ABOUT THAT ..
!!
M. MY REASON TO STAY ALIVE HAS ONLY BEEN TO KILL THE SHADOW WARRIOR!
B... BUT...
TOKUGAWA IS THE MORTAL FOE OF THE TOYOTOMI! THAT'S WHY I HAVE FOUGHT TO TAKE IEYASU'S HEAD ..

I WILL TAKE CHARGE OF GOING AFTER LORD IEYASU'S LIFE, AND I WILL NOT PERMIT YOU TO ACT OF YOUR OWN ACCORD!!
WE MUST FOREGO KILLING IEYASU, FOR THE SAKE OF LORD HIDEYORI!
THAT IS MY LAST REQUEST...
I'M COUNTING ON YOU, SAKON! PROTECT THE TOYOTOMI AND LORD HIDEYORI!
!!
YOU ARE TOO YOUNG TO BE THINKING OF NOTHING BUT ASSASSINATION.
— ROKURO...
FOR NOW, I WILL FOCUS ON RECOVERING FROM MY WOUNDS,
AND KEEP WATCH OVER LORD IEYASU'S MOTIONS. AND KYOTO IS VERY CONVENIENT FOR THAT
Y YES.

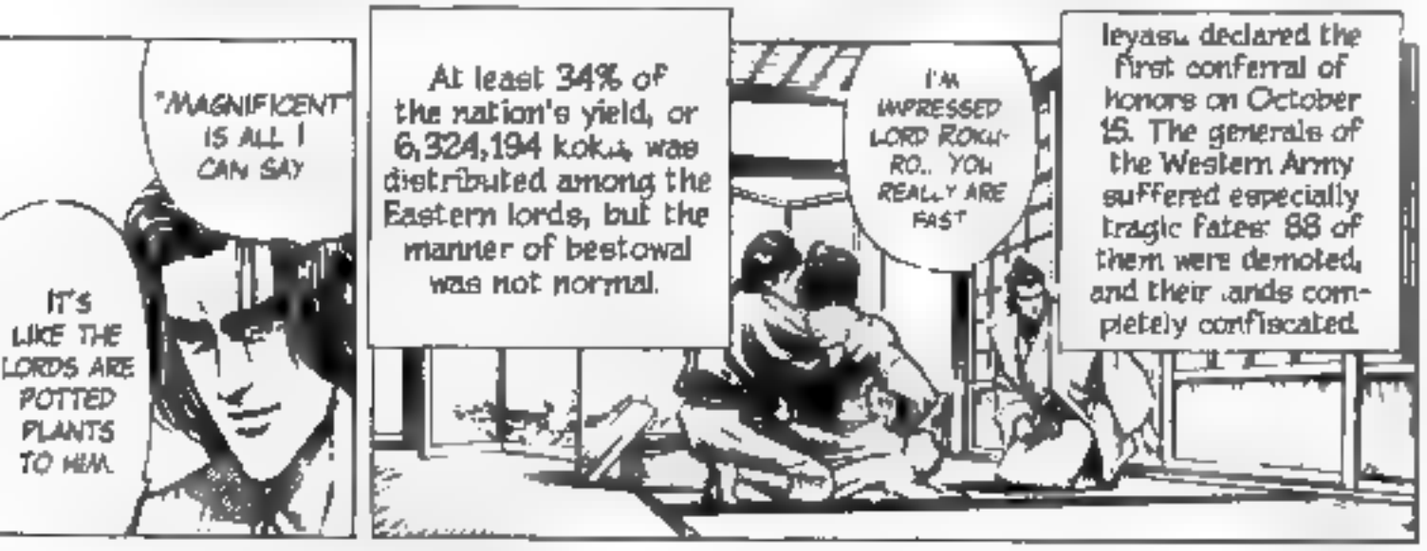
GET YOUR CLAMS HERE!
HEY! CLAMS!
HERE HE COMES!
AH!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS.
HERE
I'LL HAVE SOME, PLEASE!
YOU'RE RIGHT! I'M ALMOST DROOLING!
IT'S THE CLAM VENDOR! HE SURE IS HANDSOME!
THEY SAY HE COMMANDED HIS FORCES MAGNIFICENTLY AT SEKIGHARA, DESPITE HIS ADVANCED AGE
LORD HIDEYORI IS TOO YOUNG AND IEYASU SHALL PASS ON SOON.
BUT STILL, IT'S IMPRESSIVE
THEY'VE REALLY SOLIDIFIED THEIR GRASP ON OSAKA CASTLE!
I HEAR IEYASU HAS OCCUPIED THE WESTERN CITADEL, AND HIS SON HIDETADA IS IN THE OUTER CITADEL!
YOU SAID IT!
BUT MAN, THE TOKUGAWA ARE FINALLY RULING THE NATION!
Rokuro devoted himself to gathering information from the youth of Kyoto.

I KILLED HIM WITH MY OWN HANDS.
I KILLED THE REAL ONE! THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!
THAT'S A FAKE!!
NO!!
THANK YOU.
MY LORD!
M.
UGWO OAH

HEY ...
EEK ...
!
...HUH ...!?
H..HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
Y YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GAVE ME THE WRONG CHANGE...
AH... I SINCERELY APOLOGIZE.
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM ?
I KILLED HIM.. I KILLED TOKUGAWA IEYASU.
AHH, YOU SCARED ME
SORRY

October 15
Keicho year 5
(1600)
HUH?
TODAY'S A PRETTY BUSY DAY.
JUST LET ME GO GREET MY GUEST IN THE BACK ROOM.
AH... WELCOME HOME, MASTER.
I HAVE RETURNED.
R... RIGHT

ROKURO JUST TOLD ME.
THE CONFERRAL OF HONORS HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED.
I KNOW.
AHH!!
B...BAD NEWS!

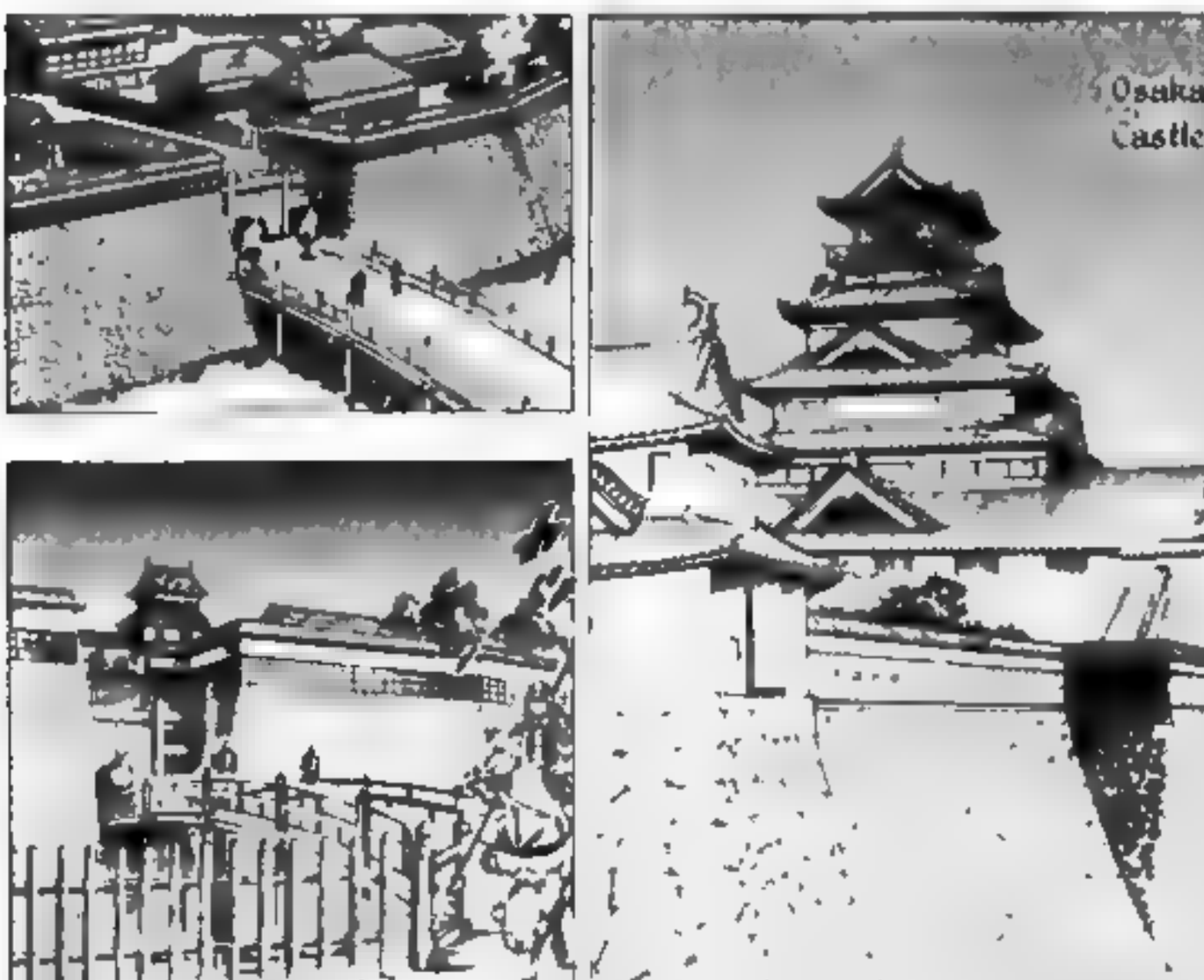

"MAGNIFICENT" IS ALL I CAN SAY
IT'S LIKE THE LORDS ARE POTTED PLANTS TO HIM.
At least 34% of the nation's yield, or 6,324,194 koku, was distributed among the Eastern lords, but the manner of bestowal was not normal.
I'M IMPRESSED LORD ROKURO.. YOU REALLY ARE FAST
Ieyasu declared the first conferral of honors on October 15. The generals of the Western Army suffered especially tragic fates: 88 of them were demoted, and their lands completely confiscated.

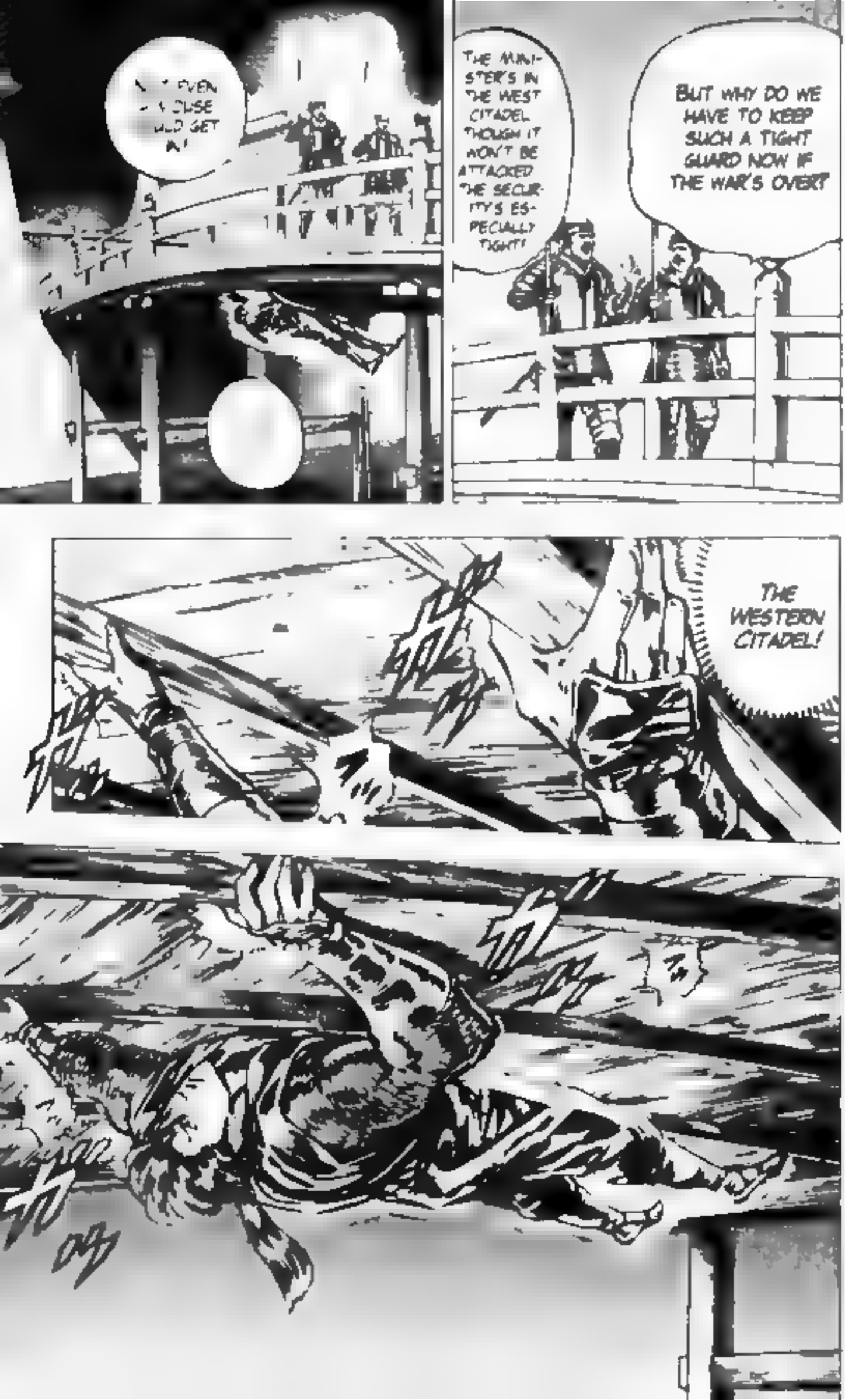
WITH SUCH A HIGH SALARY, THEY CAN'T COMPLAIN.
FUKUSHIMA WAS MOVED FROM KIYOSU OF OWARI TO AKI AND BINGO (HIROSHIMA), AND TANAKA YOSHIMASA WAS MOVED FROM OKAZAKI OF MIKAWA TO YANAGAWA OF CHIKUGO. BUT BOTH THEIR TERRITORIES WERE DOUBLED!
BUT I'D WAGER FUKUSHIMA MASANORI AND TANAKA YOSHIMASA, WHO HELD LORD MITSUNARI CAPTIVE, ARE OVERJOYED
NOW EVEN IF SOMETHING HAPPENS IN OSAKA, THEY HAVE NO WAY TO COME RUNNING UP TO HELP
HE'S DRIVEN ALL THE OUTER LORDS TO REMOTE LANDS.

NO... THEY HAVE REDUCED LORD HIDEYORI'S TERRITORY.
!?
BUT THAT WOULD CAUSE AN UPROAR!
HUH !?
NOT A FINGER HAS BEEN EXTENDED TOWARD TOYOTOMI'S FIEF
AT LEAST NOTHING HAPPENED TO LORD HIDEYORI.
WELL
THAT SAID,
THEN NATURALLY, THE TOYOTOMIS' LAND WOULD DIMINISH...
SO IF THOSE LORDS ARE CRUSHED...
KAZUMA, THE TOYOTOMI'S EXPANSIVE FIEF WAS DIVIDED AMONG THE LORDS WHO WERE HIS RETAINERS.
HUH !?
T... THAT'S NOT WHAT HE AGREED TO!
For this reason, the Toyotomis' two million koku territory had suddenly diminished to 650,000 koku.
!?
WHEN HE SAID HE WOULD PROTECT HIDEYORI, HIS TONGUE SPOKE NOUGHT BUT LIES!
THAT SHADOW WARRIOR!

BUT IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S DONE WITH HIS BUSINESS. HE MUST BE SIGHTSEEING
!
!!!!
KAZUMA. HAVE YOU SEEN ROKURO ANYWHERE?
AH. NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT
LET ME SEE IT.
HAS ROKURO BEEN CARRYING THESE HEAVY BASKETS AROUND?
THERE'S STILL PLENTY LEFT IN HERE!
HMM? WHAT'S THIS!?
WHY IS IT SO HEAVY?
KCH!
WELL, I HAVE NO CHOICE. LET'S SEE...
HUH !?

AHH
HE'S BEEN TRAINING HIMSELF WHILE DOING BUSINESS
ROKURO IS A NINJA
W...WHY WAS HE KEEPING A STEEL PLATE IN HERE..?
WHY WOULD HE NEED TO DO THAT ON TOP OF GATHERING INFORMATION?
B BUT
H... IT CAN'T BE... ROKURO'S..!
!

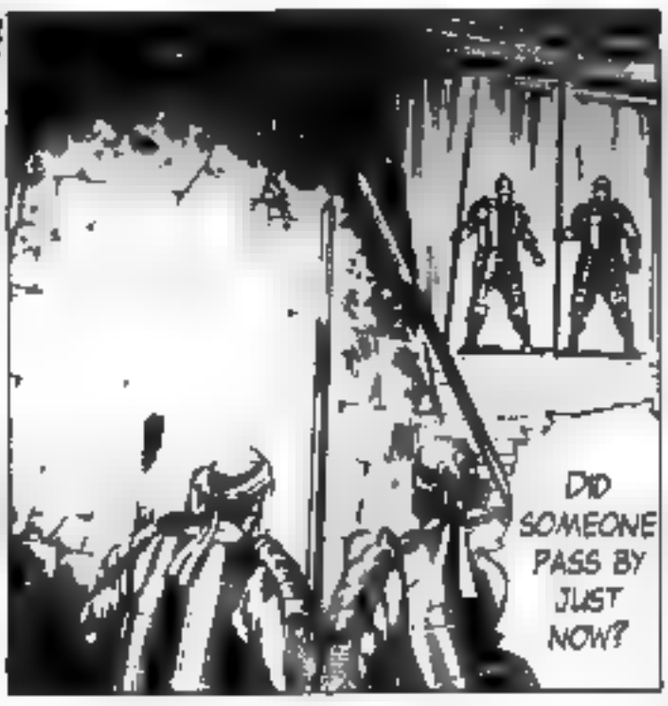

Osaka Castle


EVEN A MOUSE COULD GET IN!
THE MINISTER'S IN THE WEST CITADEL. THOUGH IT WON'T BE ATTACKED THE SECURITY'S ESPECIALLY TIGHT!
BUT WHY DO WE HAVE TO KEEP SUCH A TIGHT GUARD NOW IF THE WAR'S OVER?
THE WESTERN CITADEL!

HMM!?

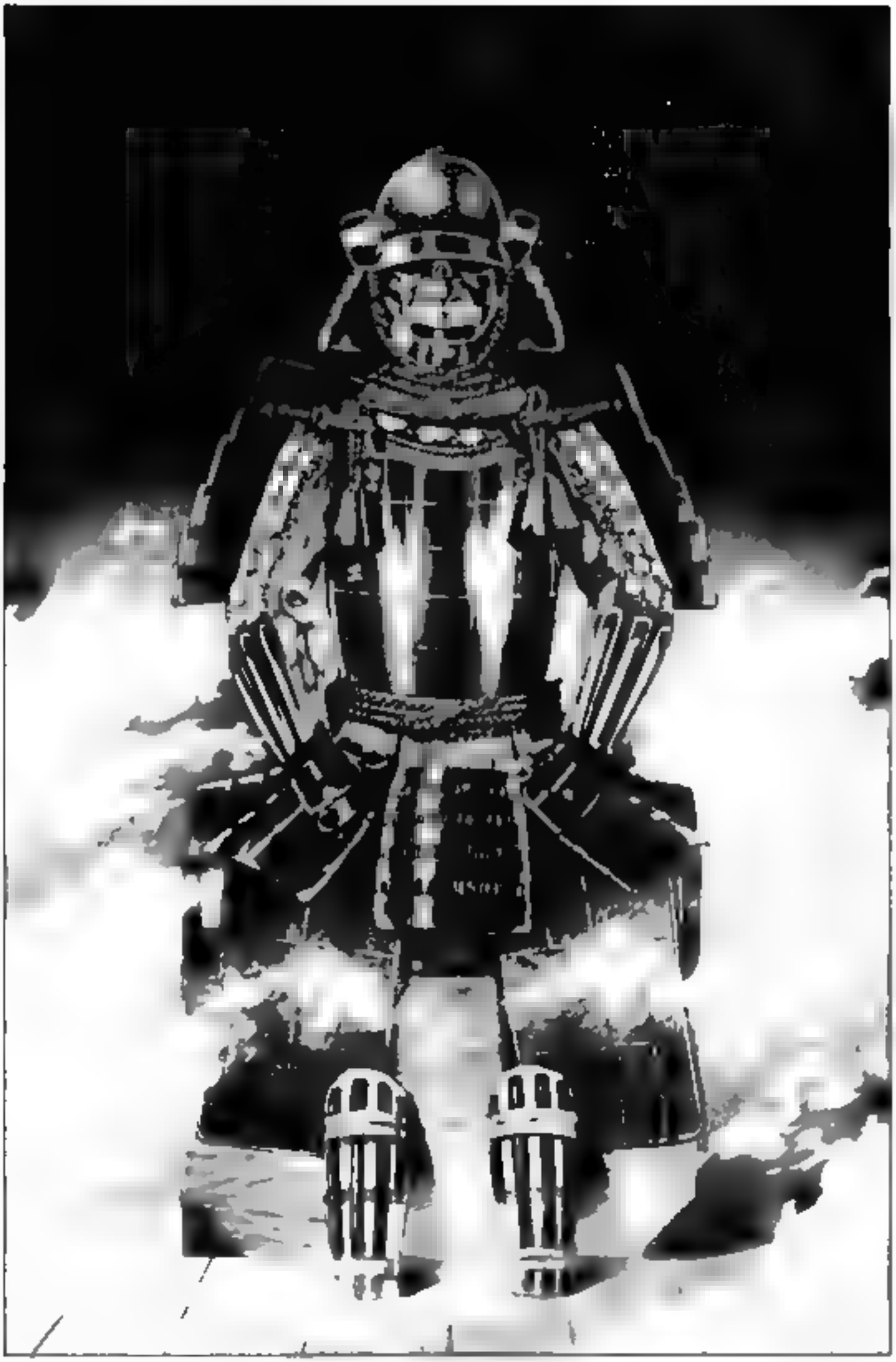
IT'S A THIEF!!
UH... T... THIEF!

HEH... MUST'VE BEEN AN OWL OR SOME-THING!


DID SOMEONE PASS BY JUST NOW?

WHAT THE !?
!?
WHAT IS IT?

EVEN THOUGH I KILLED THE REAL ONE, OUR SITUATION IS JUST AS IF LORD IEYASU WERE STILL ALIVE
I MUST KILL LORD IEYASU AGAIN!
(T...THAT'S STRANGE ...
MUST'VE BEEN MY IMAGINATION.
HM MMM MM
SHH!!
YOU'RE RIGHT LET'S GO BACK



Shadow Warrior: Tokugawa Ieyasu

Chapter Forty Four

Presented by Hokuto no Gun
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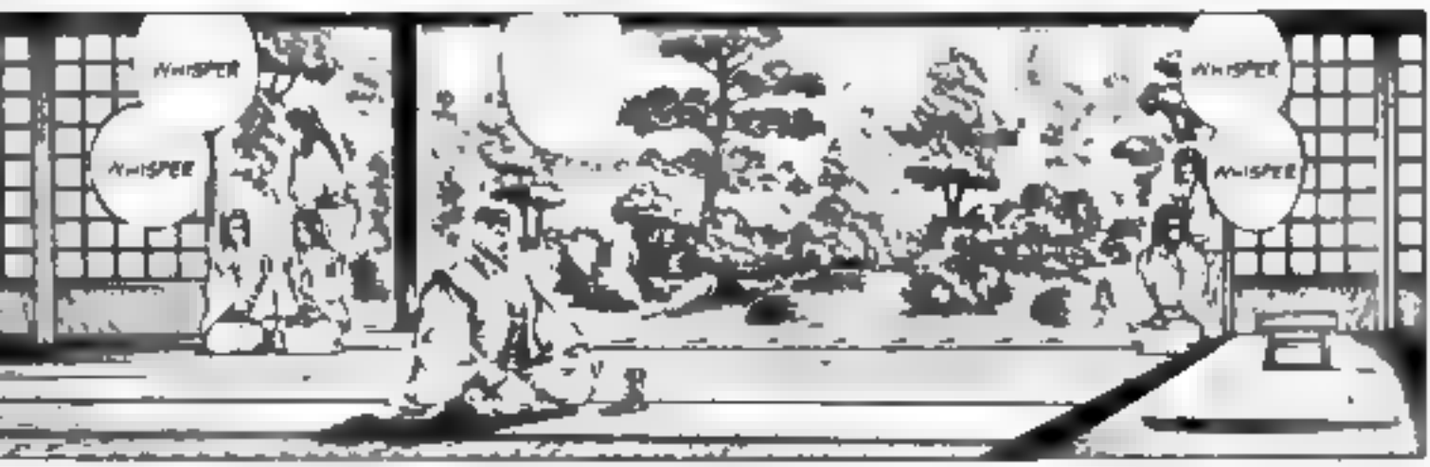
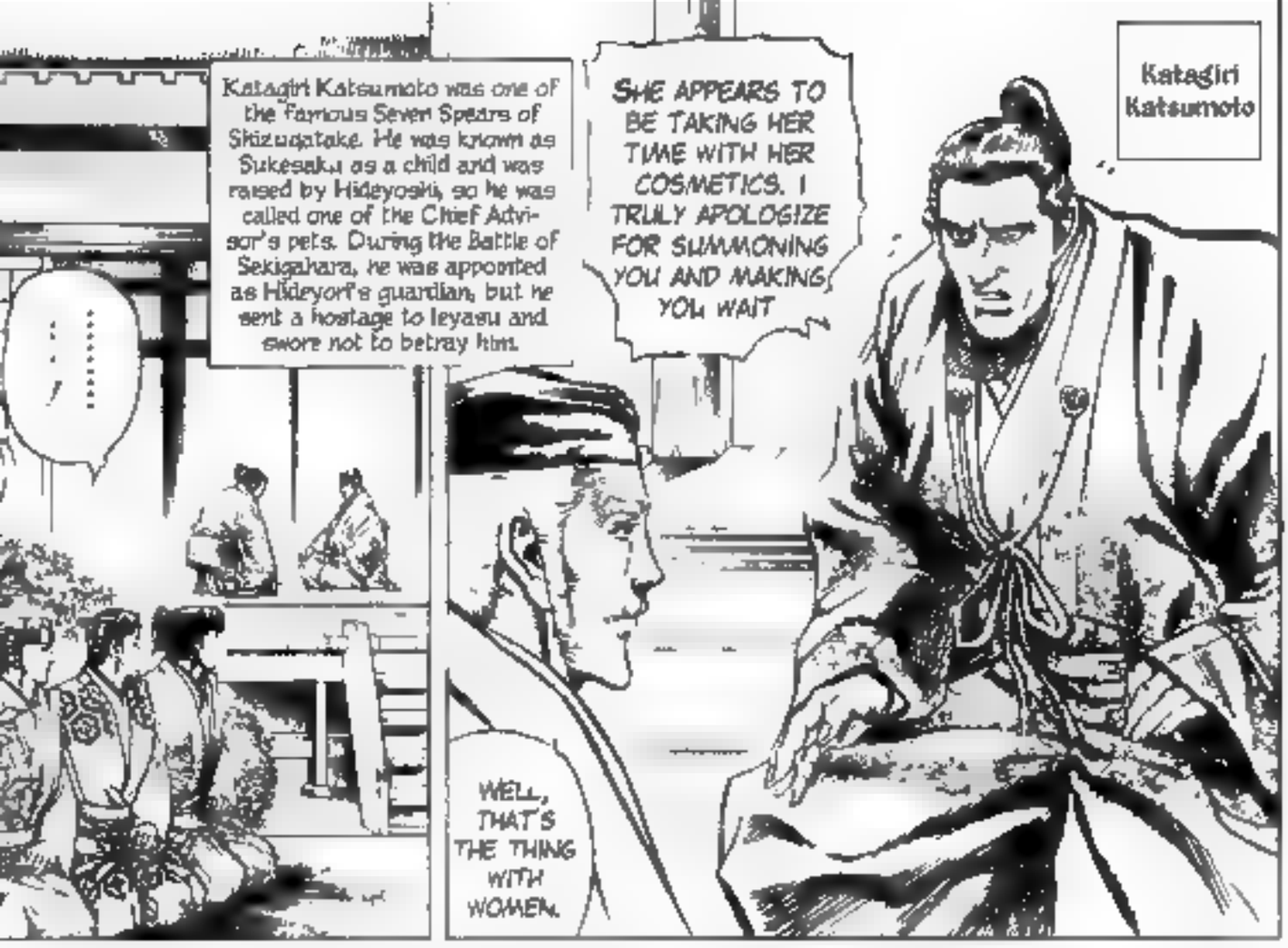
Proofread by Wright
Edited by Akromata

Osaka Castle
Hamlet Citadel
Chapter 45: Assassin in the Ceiling!


WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER

Chapter 45: Assassin in the Ceiling!


Katagiri Katsumoto was one of the famous Seven Spears of Shizugatake. He was known as Sukesaku as a child and was raised by Hideyoshi, so he was called one of the Chief Advisor's pets. During the Battle of Sekigahara, he was appointed as Hideyori's guardian, but he sent a hostage to Ieyasu and swore not to betray him.
Katagiri Katsumoto
SHE APPEARS TO BE TAKING HER TIME WITH HER COSMETICS. I TRULY APOLOGIZE FOR SUMMONING YOU AND MAKING YOU WAIT
WELL, THAT'S THE THING WITH WOMEN.

AN HOUR'S ALREADY PASSED... HOW LONG DOES SHE INTEND TO KEEP OUR LORD WAITING?
Y... YEAH.
DIDN'T LADY YODO SUMMON OUR LORD TO COME AT THE HOUR OF THE SERPENT?*

* 10 A.M.

Y YEAH.
RIGHT, MONNA?
IT'S NOT LIKE IT MATTERS HOW LONG SHE KEEPS THAT SHADOW WARRIOR WAITING.

T THAT WOMAN!

THIS MUST BE HER WAY OF SPITING OUR LORD.
FROM THE RUMORS, SHE IS QUITE INCENSED THAT OUR LORD CONFERRED THE HONORS WITHOUT EVEN CONSULTING HER.
J JUST WAIT A LITTLE WHILE LONGER!
OH, DON'T BE SO ANXIOUS!

J.. JIRO-SABURO! W.. WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING!?
YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE YOUR SEAT LIKE THAT!

NO, YOU MUSTN'T GO IN THERE!
WHAT THE HELL IS HE LOOKING AT ?

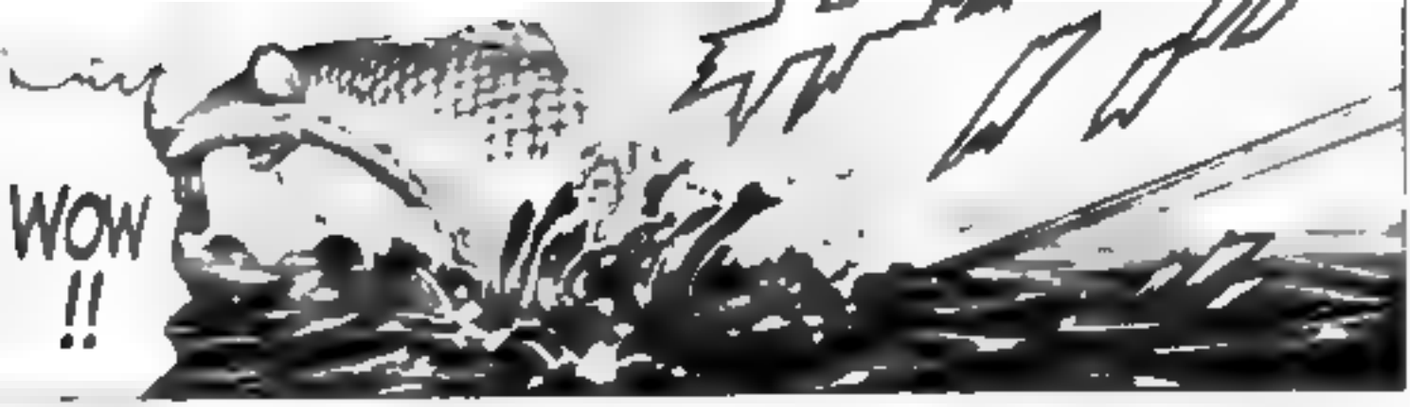
Y YES.
IS THAT LORD HIDEYORI..?
Toyotomi Hideyori had a large size and a mature face for an eight-year-old boy. Had he been raised amongst men, it was thought he might have become a great general. But in truth, he was doted upon by ladies of the court, and raised in ignorance of the world.
.....
NOW, NOW YOUR MOTHER WILL SCOLD YOU.

THE MINISTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CONFERRAL OF HONORS WAS A COMPLETELY NATURAL DEED AS THE CHIEF MINISTER!
THIS CERTAINLY DOES NOT MEAN HE IS SLIGHTING LORD HIDEYORI! PLEASE, CHEER UP
LADY YODO, WHAT ARE YOU!
IS NOT THE MINISTER THE TOYOTOMIS' RETAINER?
WHAT IS WRONG WITH KEEPING HIM WAITING!?
IT'S BEEN ALMOST AN HOUR! THIS IS JUST TOO LONG
BUT MY LADY
UH... KOH...

OHH! YOU'RE FINALLY GOING TO GO?
!
NOW, THEN ...
I THINK I SHALL TIE MY HAIR.
IF YOU KEEP THAT ATTITUDE, YOU'LL END UP LIKE ISHIDA MITSUNARI ONE DAY!
I HAVE
HIDEYORI WITH ME.

YOU SHOULDN'T GET SO CLOSE. IT'S DANGEROUS.
OHHH! LORD HIDEYORI!
.....
NOW, LORD HIDEYORI, LET US GO.
MINISTER !
OHHH, CARP, IS IT?
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
AHH !!

YOU'RE JOKING! DON'T TELL ME YOU EAT THEM?
HUU UUU UH?
HEHHEH HE... NOW, NOW
LET'S SEE.
SEE, GIVE THEM SOME FOOD. . AND LOOK AT HOW MANY THERE ARE!
HMM. THEY ARE KOI CARP THEY'RE QUITE FATTENED UP, AREN'T THEY? THEY LOOK DELICIOUS.
HUH...
IT TASTES ESPECIALLY GOOD IN MISO
CARP DOESN'T ACTUALLY TASTE THAT BAD.
NOW, IT IS TIME I LEFT.
THE MINISTER I-...IS WITH LORD HIDE-YORI...
U... UHH...
MY LADY!
!?


WOW
!!

YOU GOTTA PUT YOUR BACK INTO IT!
I-...IT'S REALLY PULLING HARD!
I-IT'S HEAVY ...

ALMOST THERE!

AS A CHILD, I'D CATCH EVEN LARGER FISH! I'D BE AT THE RIVER TILL THE SUN SET...
OHH, COME NOW. YOU WON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU'VE CAUGHT ONE
EVERY-ONE ELSE TELLS ME IT'S TOO DANGER-OUS...
BUT ARE YOU SURE THIS IS OKAY?
LURCH!
WHOA!
HUH?
IT'S PULLING ME IN!
YOU FISHED AS A CHILD, MINISTER? I HEARD YOU SPENT ALL NIGHT AND DAY LEARNING MARTIAL ARTS IN MIKAWA.
HUH?
NNNN NNNN NNNN NGH ...
IF YOU FOCUS ON CATCHING IT, YOU'LL CATCH IT!
YOU MUSTN'T GIVE UP! NOW, PUT ALL YOUR STRENGTH INTO IT!
NOW!

NOW, LORD HIDEYORI! PICK IT UP WITH THAT DISH!
WHOA!
W..WITH THIS?
YES.
I-... IT'S COLD!
UHYA AH!
GO!

YES, WELL DONE!
I... I CAUGHT IT! I CAUGHT IT! ...HAHAHA!
AH! LORD HIDE-YORI!
UHYAA AAAAA AH!
!!
HIDE-YORI !!
THAT'S RIGHT SMILING IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING THAT SHOULD BE ON A CHILD'S MIND.
YOU WILL SOIL YOUR CLOTHES!
YOU MUST NOT TOUCH THAT!
AH! MOTHER, LOOK! WE CAUGHT THIS TOGETHER!

WHY DO YOU NOT MOVE HER TO OSAKA CASTLE? AFTER ALL, SHE WILL SOON BE HIDEYORI'S BRIDE
SHE IS ABOUT TO TURN FOUR, IS SHE NOT?
Senhime was Hidetada's daughter and by the late Hideyoshi's wish, she was engaged to be married to Hideyori.
I HAVE SUMMONED YOU HERE FOR ONE REASON ALONE, AND THAT IS YOUR GRAND-DAUGHTER SENHIME
IS SENHIME WELL?
YES, FROM WHAT HIDETADA TELLS ME
DO YOU NOT AGREE?
EVEN IF WE PUT THE WEDDING OFF, I'D LOVE TO HAVE HER CLOSE BY
AND LADY SEN'S MOTHER IS LADY OGO MY SISTER
THEN YOU ARE JUST LIKE MY OWN GRANDSON LORD HIDEYORI. WE NEED TO DEEPEN OUR RELATIONSHIP SO LET'S GO
NOW NOW IF YOU ARE ENGAGED TO SEN HIME
WHY DON'T I TAKE YOU TO THE SEA, AND YOU CAN TRY SOME REAL FISHING!?
HUH! WHAT? REALLY!?
I KNOW, LORD HIDEYORI!
UH, B-BUT
HEHE WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU DON'T LIKE PLAYING WITH FISH, DO YOU, HIDEYORI?

I MISSED YOU!
KAJI. I'M SORRY TO BRING YOU PAIN.

HOLD ME
HOLD ME STRONG
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE FOR ME!!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
OW, OW, OW!
BUT I WON'T FORGIVE YOU IF THE OTHER CONCUBINES STEAL YOUR HEART!

Since they met at Otsu Castle, being close to Lady Kaji was the only way that Jirosaburo could calm his worries of the future.
And Jirosaburo was now irreplaceable within Kaji's heart.

Naturally, when they slept together, once every four days, their love for each other would explode intensely.

It was like the love
of heart-struck
teenagers.

VERY INTENSE FOR A MAN WHO'S PUSHING SIXTY...
AHH ... AHHH ...

AHH HHH ...
AHH... AH..
AHH

But what she could not do with Ieyasu, she could do with Jirosaburo.

It is said that strong-willed women prefer men of higher status and Kaji was no exception.

It was not intercourse between a lord and concubine, but lovemaking between two lovers.
W...WHAT? DID THAT CONCUBINE CALL HIM "MY LORD" ...?
But there was no way Rokuro could understand such secret subtleties.
M... MY LORD ...
AHHH ...
... IS THE REAL IEYASU !?
D... DOES THIS MEAN THAT THIS ...

I...I LOVE YOU!
I WON'T LET YOU GO, EVEN IF I DIE!
NO... I'M SURE I KILLED THE REAL ONE AT SEKIGAHARA. I KILLED HIM !!
あ あ...
LISTEN. FOR LORD HIDEYORI'S SAKE, I WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO KILL LORD IEYASU!
THEN I MUST KILL HIM AGAIN!
T...THIS WAS THE REAL IEYASU!
I...I WAS WRONG!

I WENT FISHING WITH LORD HIDEYORI TODAY
WELL... WE JUST PRETENDED TO FISH IN THE POND IN THE GARDEN. BUT IT WAS FUN. HE'S A GOOD KID.
MAY, WITH LORD HIDEYORI !?

THE TOKUGAWA SAW THE TOYOTOMI AS ENEMIES TO BE DESTROYED, BUT THEIR LORDS ARE GETTING ON SO WELL.
ISN'T THAT STRANGE?

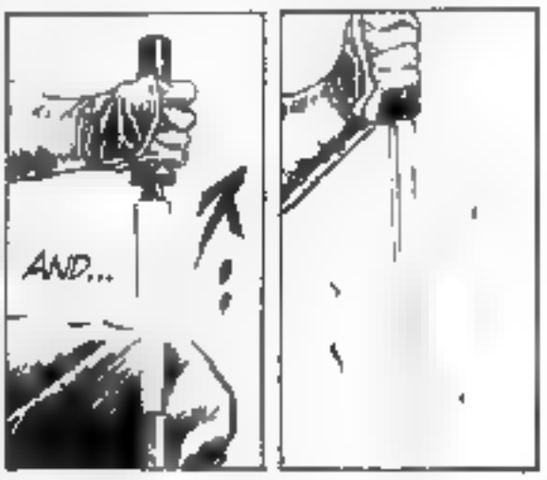
.....
BUT WHAT MAKES IT MORE DIFFICULT IS HIS MOTHER...
I KNOW NOT WHAT TO THINK OF AN EIGHT-YEAR-OLD CHILD...
KAJI, WHAT ...
DO YOU THINK OF LORD HIDEYORI?
WE HAVE TO FIND SOME WAY TO SEPARATE THEM.
YOU'RE RIGHT. HE CAN'T HAVE HIS MOTHER AROUND HIM.

HUH?
.....
.....
NOT JUST FOR LORD HIDEYORI'S SAKE, BUT FOR MY SAKE...
THE ONLY REASON I AM BEING KEPT ALIVE IS TO KILL LORD HIDEYORI AND WIPE THE TOYOTOMI FROM THIS EARTH.

I..I WASN'T WRONG! SO THE ONE I STABBED WAS TRULY .
DO NOT WANT TO SLAY LORD HIDEYORI.
I...
!!

IS OUR ALLY!!
THIS SHADOW WARRIOR...

THE REAL ONE... LORD SAKON AND LORD MITSUNARI WERE RIGHT


AND...

Shadow Warrior: Tokugawa Ieyasu

Chapter Forty Five

Presented by Hokuto no Gun
Translated by SystematicChaos
Proofread by Wright
Edited by Akromata

Chapter 46: The Undelivered Letter!
I HUMBLY APOLOGIZE
YOU WERE RIGHT, MY LORD THAT LORD IEYASU IS OUR ALLY
HUH?
WHO'S PULLING HIS STRINGS?

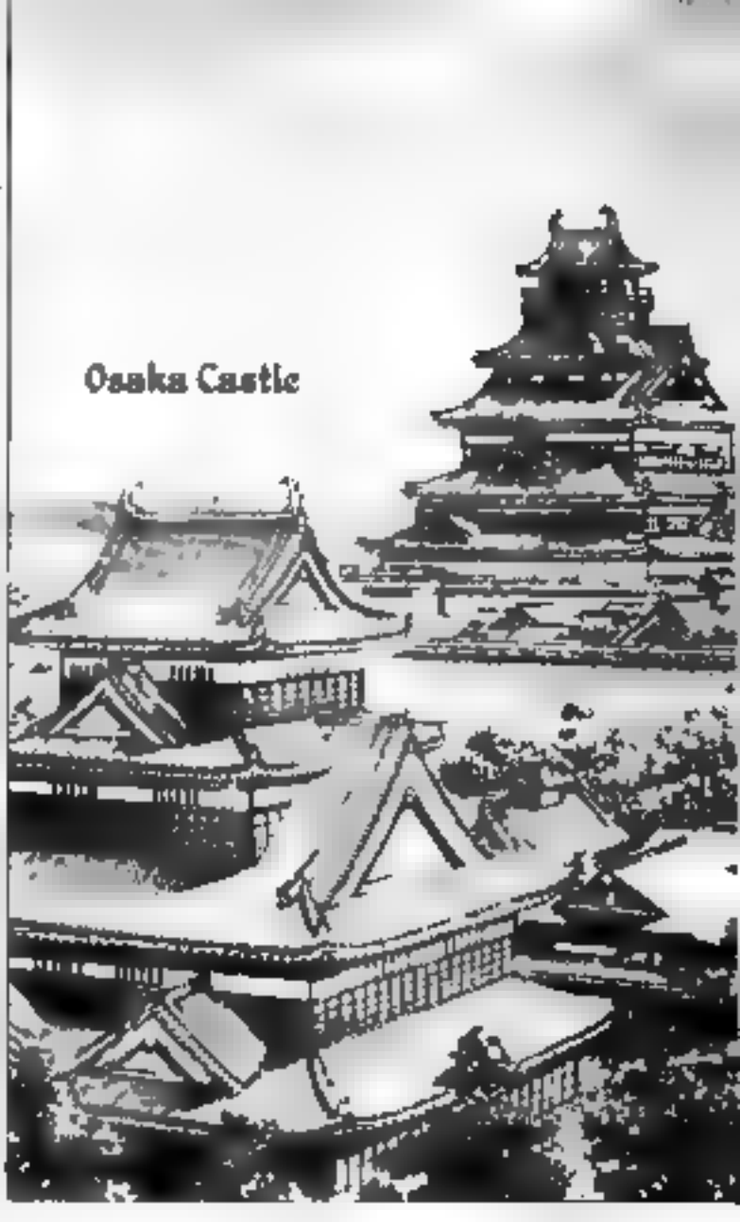
FROM THE LOOKS OF SEKIGAHARA, I WOULD SAY HONDA HEI-HACHIRO TADAKATSU ...
BUT THAT MAN COULD NEVER BE A SCHEMER... IT'S NOT IN HIS NATURE.
THE ONLY ONE I COULD THINK OF IS HONDA YAHACHIRO MASANOBU...

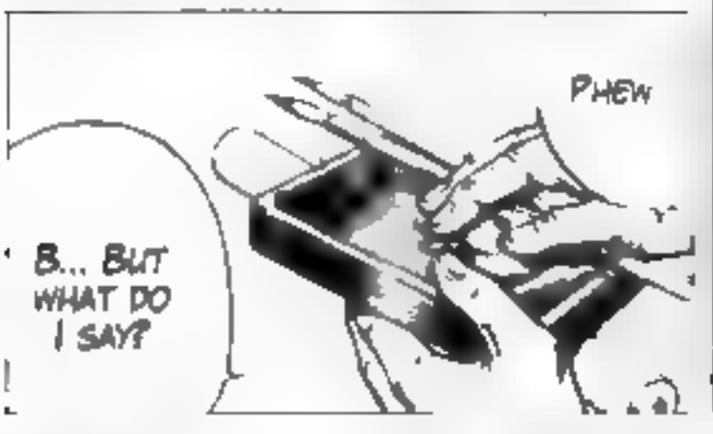
Chapter 46: The Undelivered Letter!

PWAH HAHA HA!
PLEASANT! YES, PLEASANT!
BUT WHATEVER THE CASE, THIS IS...
HE HE HE ...
!?
WHAT IS SO FUNNY?
UH, MY LORD...
BUT ROKURO, THAT PUPPET'S DESIRE...
WHOEVER THE PUPPET MASTER IS, THE TOKUGAWA CLAN INTENDS TO EXTERMINATE THE TOYOTOM. AND TAKE THE LIFE OF LORD HIDEYORI.
IS TO PRESERVE LORD HIDEYORI'S LIFE!!
HMM?
DON'T YOU SEE?
HAHA... NOT AT ALL.

WILL TAKE NOTICE OF THE PUPPET'S DESIRE.
THAT'S RIGHT. SOONER OR LATER, THE TOKUGAWA CLAN
AND THAT'S WHERE I COME IN.
THAT WILL SURELY HAPPEN IF HIDETADA'S POWER KEEPS EXPANDING. HE WILL WITHHOLD POWER FROM THE SHADOW. AND NATURALLY THE SHADOW WILL FIGHT BACK
RIGHT
THIS LORD IEYASU WILL SOMEDAY BECOME AN OBSTACLE TO LORD HIDETADA.
T...THAT'S JUST UNTHINKABLE ...
.....
IN OTHER WORDS, I WILL ASSIST THE FAKE LORD IEYASU FROM THE SHADOWS!
I WILL INCREASE THIS LORD IEYASU'S POWER TO HINDER LORD HIDETADA'S SCHEMES!

H. HE'LL BE A MISCHIEVOUS CHILD TO HIS DEATH!!
WELL, LET'S GET TO IT! WHAT DO YOU SAY, ROKURO?
I CAN ALMOST BEHOLD TOKUGAWA KNOCKED INTO CONFUSION AND DISARRAY!
WE, THE PRESUMED DEAD, SHALL AID HIM.
I SUPPOSE I'LL FOLLOW THE PRANKS OF THIS MISCHIEVOUS CHILD!
When these feelings swelled from the depths of Rokuro's heart, excitement filled his whole being.
YOU SOUND LIKE YOU COULD TAKE IT WHENEVER YOU WANTED!
OH, WHAT'S THIS?
YOU'RE RIGHT
AND IF HE'S TOO MUCH OF A HINDRANCE... I WILL TAKE LORD HIDETADA'S HEAD.
NO...
YOU'VE FINALLY SMILED.
THAT'S GOOD. YOU'RE STILL YOUNG. YOU SHOULDN'T LIVE JUST FOR ASSASSINATION.


Osaka Castle


PHEW
B... BUT WHAT DO I SAY?

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE?
EEK!

I COULD NEVER ASK THAT
AH, I SHOULD JUST GIVE UP ON IT TODAY.

A VERY GOOD DAY... OH, NO, NO, NO..
UHHH... TODAY IS. UHH...

WELL, YOU SEE I HAVE SOMETHING TO ASK OF YOU.

S... SURI!
AIEEEEE! FORGIVE ME! FORGIVE ME!
YES... BUT NOW'S A REALLY HARD TIME FOR THE TOKUGAWA CLAN...
!!
YOU MUST WANT TO SEE HIM.
Y...YES, HE WAS LAST MONTH...
MY, YOUR GRANDSON!?
SO THAT'S WHY YOU WERE WRITING A LETTER?
H..HE'S MY FIRST GRANDSON!

I CAN'T WRITE WELL...
YES, BUT I ...
SO... I WAS HOPING TO ASK SOMEONE...
I UNDERSTAND. I WILL WRITE IT FOR YOU, AND YOU CAN COPY IT
WHAT? YOU WILL, MY LADY?
SO?
UHH HHH ...
LET'S SEE ...
I-... IS THAT SO?
IT'S FINE. A LETTER'S JUST ABOUT CONVEYING YOUR FEELINGS.
WELL, I'M SURE HE HAS TO BE CUTE.
UHHH... IS HE CUTE? IS MY GRANDSON CUTE?
TEEHEE ..
AHH.. WHY THE HELL AM I SAYING CUTE OVER AND OVER? THAT'S JUST WEIRD!

MUMBLE MUMBLE
IS MY GRANDSON'S FACE CUTE? IT MUST BE CUTE. I'LL BET YOU'VE GIVEN HIM A CUTE NAME...
I SEE. YOU JUST HAD A GRANDSON.
W...WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
HAH HA HA ...
PFF FFF FFF FFF FT !
SORRY
OH, SORRY
JIROSA-BURO, THAT'S JUST RUDE!

AT LEAST LET ME DO THAT
I'LL HAVE A MESSENGER SEND IT IMMEDIATELY
HUH?
ARE YOU SURE, JIROSABURO?

I'M DONE!
I-

I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO GIVE UP YOUR FREEDOM ...FOR THE TOKUGAWA CLAN.
WELL, THE SAME GOES FOR YOU AND MONNA, DOESN'T IT?

PARDON ME.

MAY I REQUEST PRIVACY?
YAGYU MUNENORI!?

YOU HAVE ARBITRARILY ALLOWED SOMEONE WHO KNOWS THE TOKUGAWAS' SECRET TO LEAK INFORMATION TO THE OUTSIDE.
WHAT?
LORD HIDETADA IS FURIOUS.
WE CAN'T HAVE YOU ACTING OUT OF ORDER LIKE THIS.
!?
T-THIS IS SURI'S LETTER!
INDEED.
ARE YOU SAYING WE'RE NOT EVEN FREE TO SEND A SINGLE LETTER?
SO..
WE NEED YOU TO UNDERSTAND YOUR PLACE.

I WANT...
TO MAKE A WORLD WHERE ALL CAN LIVE IN FREEDOM AND PEACE
THE WINGS OF MY FREEDOM WERE CLIPPED DURING WAR. IT MAY BE WHY I GAIN PLEASURE FROM FALCONRY.
JIROSABURO...

NOT WHAT HIDETADA'S DOING...
NO., THIS ISN'T WHAT MY LORD WANTED!

A
GO BACK TO YOUR HOMELAND.
AT LEAST, YOU ARE ENTITLED TO FREEDOM.
HUUUH!? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I COULDN'T PROTECT MY LORD AS HIS SHADOW, SO I'M PREPARED TO DEPEND THE SECRET UNTIL MY DEATH. BUT YOU DON'T HAVE THAT RESPONSIBILITY, SURI.
IT'S FINE.
HUH ...?
...BUT THAT'S BAD!
I KNOW THE SECRET OF THE TOKUGAWA CLAN!
A...ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS...?
HE AGREED TO LET YOU RETURN HOME WITHOUT TELLING HIDETADA.
OF COURSE, YOU CAN'T TELL THE SECRET TO ANYONE. BUT YAHACHIRO ALSO KNOWS OF THIS

TAKE THIS FOR YOUR CUTE GRANDSON.
てててん
IT'S ALRIGHT NOW.
YEAH.
ARE YOU REALLY SURE ABOUT THIS?
A...
とてててん

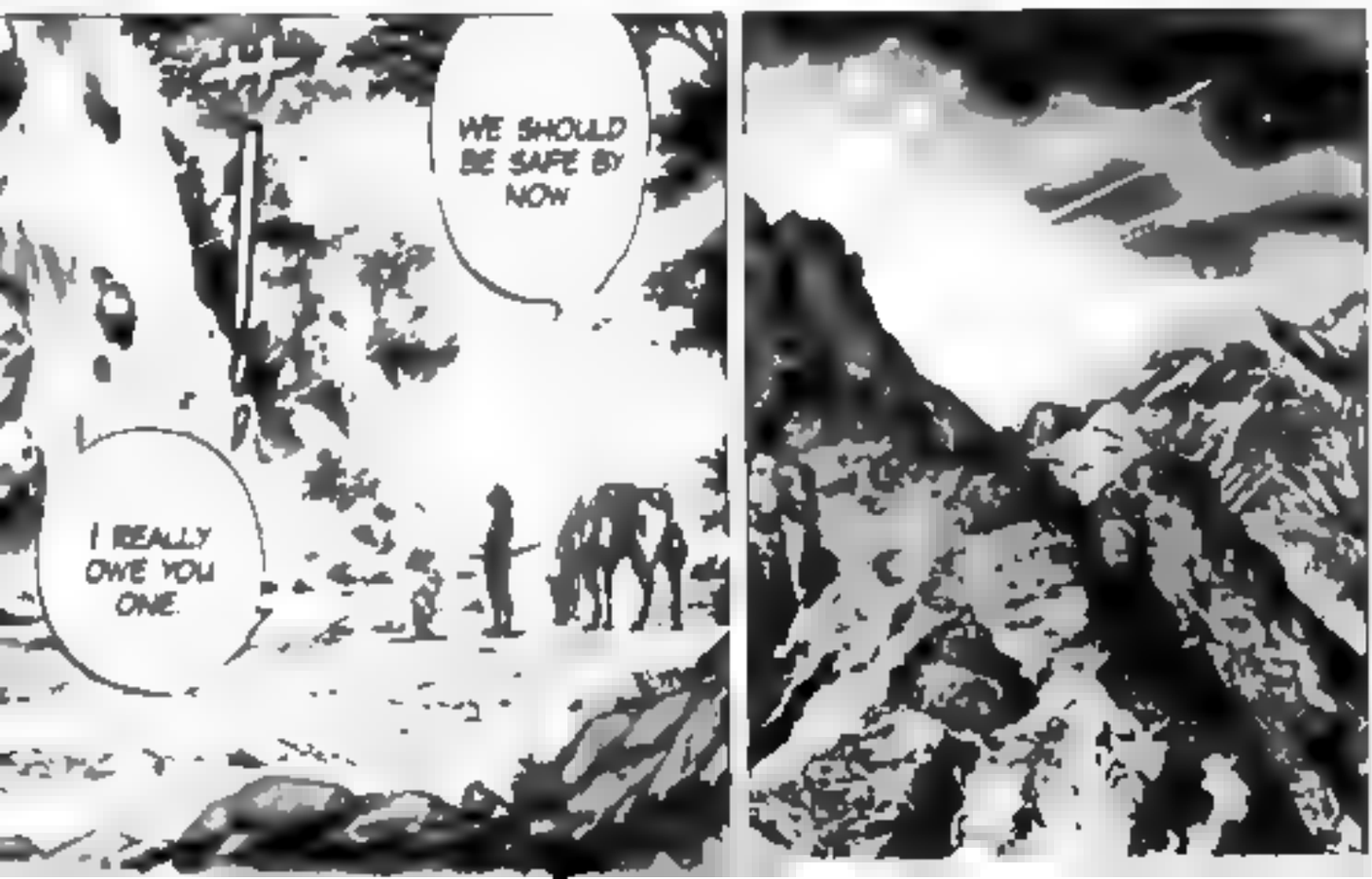
BUT AT YOUR ADVANCED AGE YOU SHOULD BE LIVING A LIFE OF LEISURE.
IT'LL BE LONELY WITHOUT YOU.
MONNA ...
WOW! A.. ALL THIS FOR HIM?
I HAVE SOME MORE.
YEAH! IT SURE IS GREAT!
ISN'T THIS GREAT, SURI?

E.. EVERYONE...
TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR GRANDSON!
TAKE CARE.
KEEP WELL!

THANK YOU. THANK YOU
HAAHA!
HAHA!
HEHE... THAT'S GOOD.
THIS IS SO NICE! HAHAHA!
HAH HA!

I AM GOING TO KUSA-TSU BY MY LORD'S ORDERS!

F FAREWELL


WE SHOULD BE SAFE BY NOW
I REALLY OWE YOU ONE

WELL THEN, GRAMPS
BE HAPPY WITH YOUR GRANDSON.
YEAH. THANK YOU SO MUCH, OFUJI.
I CAN FINALLY MEET HIM! I CAN MEET MY CUTE GRANDSON!
HRRGH
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO YA?
I DON'T FEEL TOO WELL.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN MY LONG JOURNEY ...
WELL, THAT'S NOT GOOD!
LET ME HAVE A LOOK AT YOU!
AH, THANK YOU...
BUT I'M FINE NOW MY JOURNEY IS OVER.

KUFU
.....
ELIGIH

COUGH... THE GIFT... COUGH.
AHHH. AND JIROSABURO GAVE IT SPECIALLY FOR HIM...
M... MY GIFT TO MY GRANDSON...

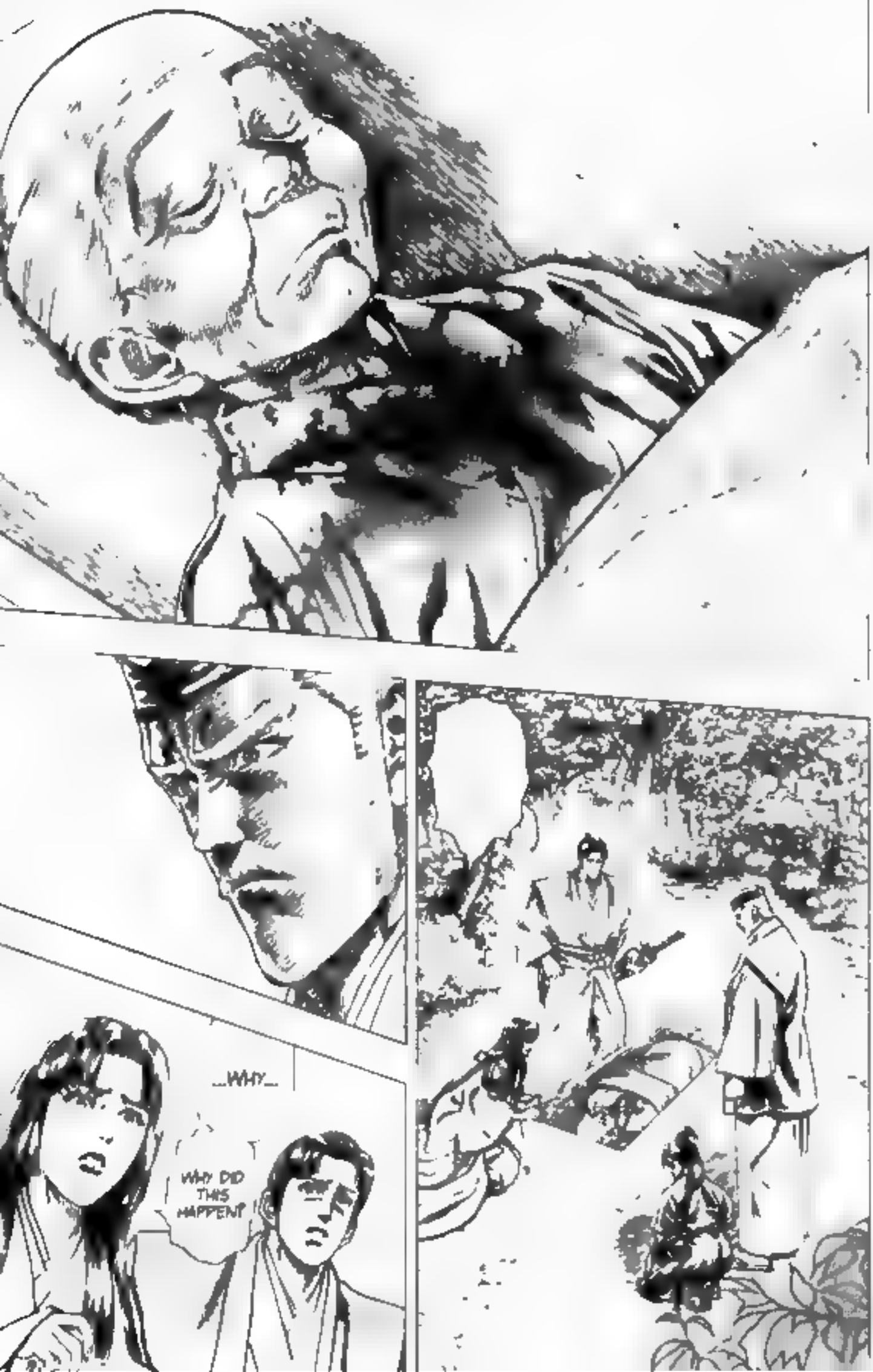
WHAT DO YOU WANT THIS LATE AT NIGHT?
OPEN. THIS AND YOU WILL UNDERSTAND.
.....
S... SURI!!
HE WOULDN'T HAVE DIED IF YOU HADN'T ACTED OUT OF TURN... MY PAGES ARE ALWAYS REPORTING YOUR ACTIONS TO ME, "FATHER"
I ASK THAT YOU ABSTAIN FROM ANY FURTHER IMPUDENCE.

Shadow Warriors: Tokugawa Ieyasu

Chapter Forty Six

Presented by Hakuto no Gun
Translated by SystematicChaos
Proofread by Wright
Edited by Akromata

Chapter 47: The Sleeping Lion Stands!



Chapter 47: The Sleeping Lion Stands!

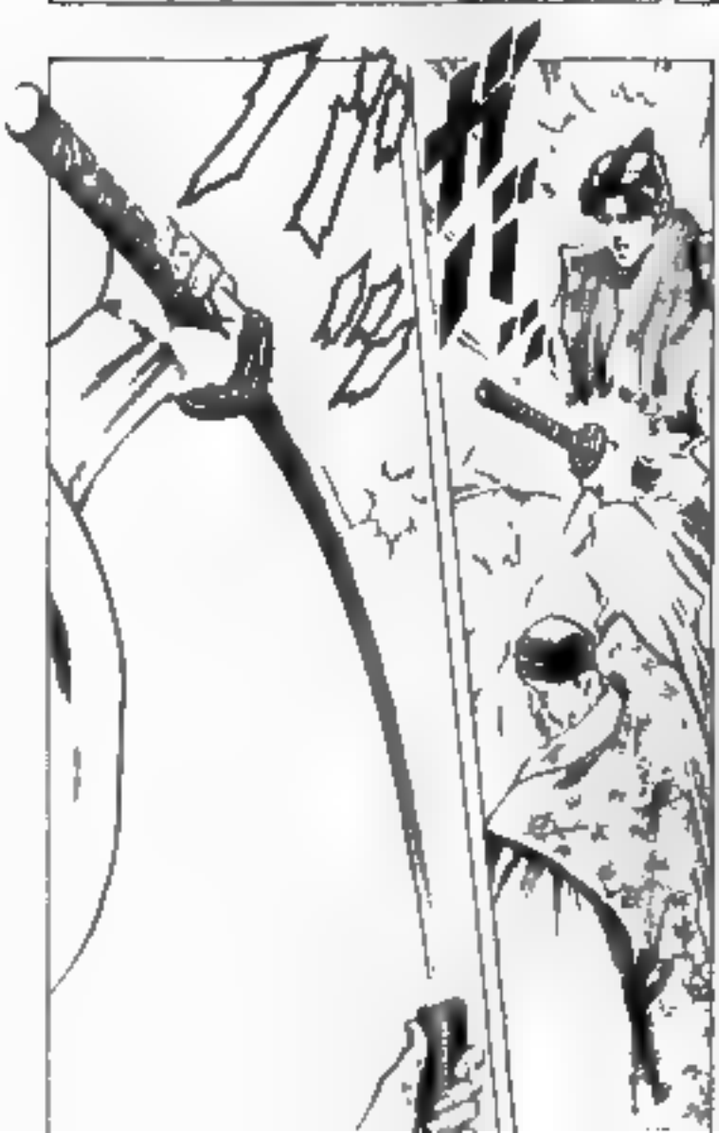
JIROSABURO, I TRULY THANK YOU.
NOW I CAN FINALLY SEE MY CUTE GRANDSON.
HE WAS LEFT TO DIE AROUND HASSO PASS...
I AM TRULY SORRY THIS WAS ALL DUE TO MY OVERSIGHT
T THIS WOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED IF I LEFT YOU ALONE
W WERE BEING OBSERVED..
W. WE..
IF WE ACTED OUT OF LINE.. AND THEY SAW
T_THEY'D KILL US...

BUT WE MUST PLUCK OUT THE SEEDS OF PERIL UNTIL YOU UNIFY THE NATION.
IT IS TRULY A SHAME
WE WOULD NOT HAVE HAD TO KILL HIM IF HE HADN'T ESCAPED
YOU MUST BE OBEDIENT... LIKE THE SHADOW YOU ARE...
NOW I HOPE YOU'VE LEARNED YOUR LESSON. DO NOT ACT OUT OF TURN.
WHY, YOU ...
W-

ど"ん...

AND JUST WHAT DO YOU PLAN ON DOING WITH THAT HAND, FATHER?

I HUMBLY ASK THAT YOU TO BECOME THE SHOGUN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, SO YOU CAN HAND OVER THE TITLE OF SHOGUN TO ME.
HEHE HE..
I SUPPOSE I WILL LET IT SLIDE THIS TIME.



EEK !
HUH ?
ARR RRRR RRRR RGH!

AHH!!
AAEIGH
J-JIRO-SABU-RO!

It was about this time that a change occurred in Ieyasu's associates.

and Sakakibara Yasumasa.

Ii Naomasa.

They were Honda Tadakatsu,

And so on March 23, Keicho year 6 (1601)

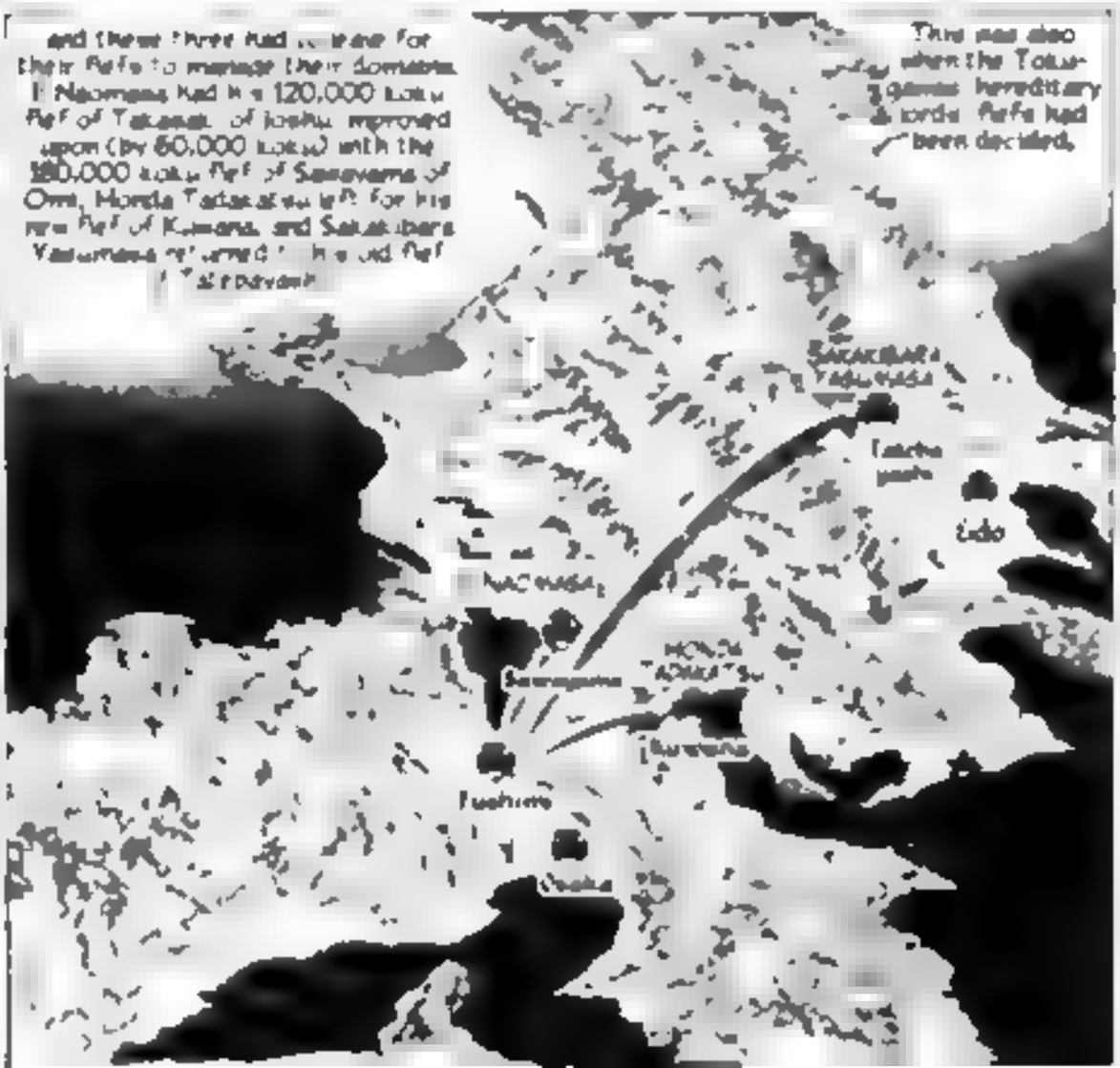
Ieyasu moved to the newly renovated Fushimi Castle.

Hidetada would also move on the 26th.

HEH HEH

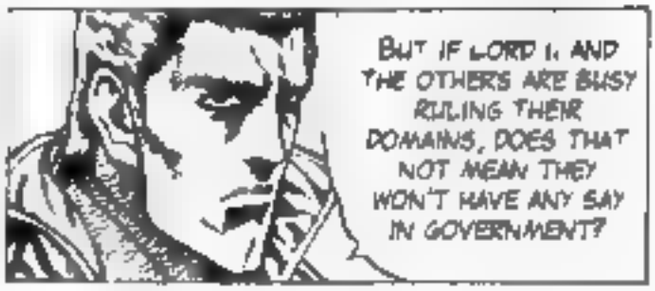
and these three had come for their Fefs to manage their domains. Ii Naomasa had a 120,000 koku Fief of Takasaki, of Joshu, improved upon (by 60,000 koku) with the 180,000 koku Fief of Sawayama of Omi. Honda Tadakatsu left for his new Fief of Kuwana, and Sakakibara Yasumasa returned to his old Fief of Nirayama.

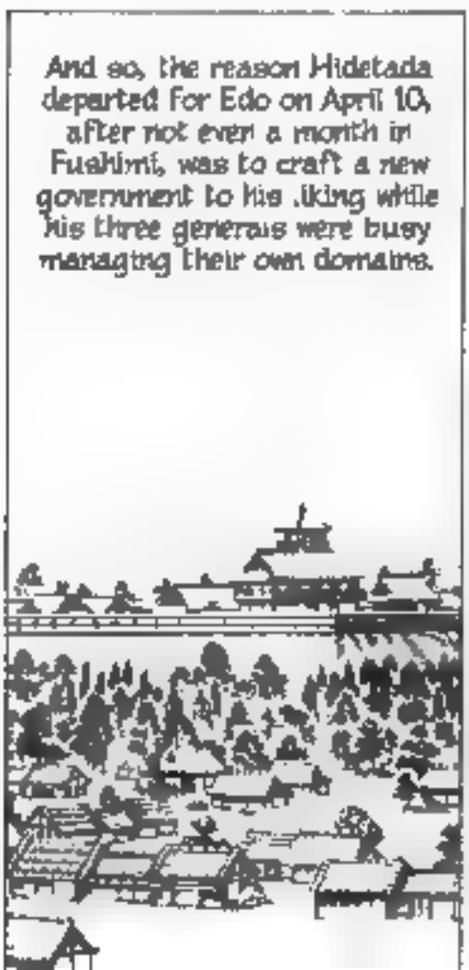
This was also when the Tokugawa hereditary & lords' Fefs had been decided.



Meanwhile, Hidetada returned to Edo as its custodian.

HEHE... THAT'S JUST WHAT I'M AFTER.
AND WHY DID YOU LEAVE LORD HONDA MASANOBU IN FUSHIMI TO OBSERVE THE SHADOW WARRIOR?


BUT IF LORD I. AND THE OTHERS ARE BUSY RULING THEIR DOMAINS, DOES THAT NOT MEAN THEY WON'T HAVE ANY SAY IN GOVERNMENT?


And so, the reason Hidetada departed for Edo on April 10, after not even a month in Fushimi, was to craft a new government to his liking while his three generals were busy managing their own domains.

THAT'S RIGHT! MASANOBU WILL BE SO SURPRISED WHEN HE RETURNS TO EDO! HAAAAHHAHA HAHAHAHAHA!

A. A GOVERN-MENT WITHOUT THEM!?

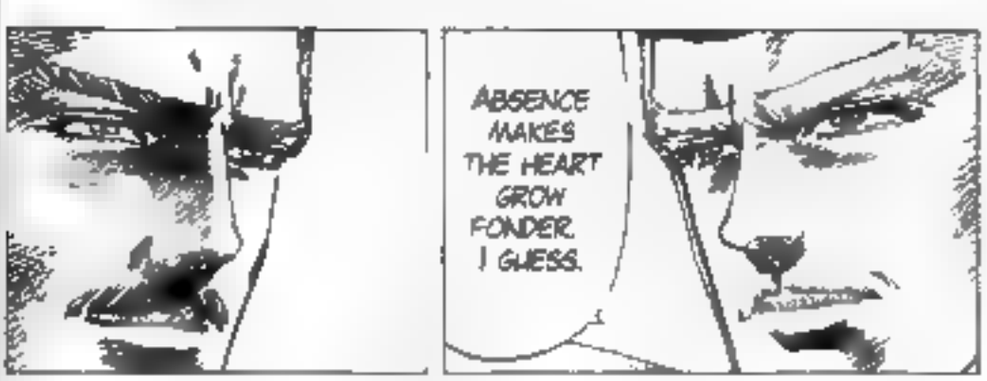
NOW, I WILL CHOOSE MY ASSOCIATES FROM MY OWN RETAINERS AND CREATE A GOVERNMENT OF MY OWN!
THEY WERE THE MOST TRUSTED ASSOCIATES OF MY FATHER IE-YASU. I HAD TO DISPOSE OF THOSE SICKEN-ING MEN

Meanwhile, the two that remained in Fushimi Castle.

Hidetada's error was his ignorance of their great friendship. They were brothers in arms, who had fought side by side in the long, long Ikko Uprising, from the initial uprising in Mikawa to the collapse of Ishiyama Hongan Temple.
YEAH ...
IT'S BEEN SO LONG.
Jirosaburo and Honda Yahachiro Masanobu were drinking together deep within Fushimi Castle.

DO YOU KNOW?
.. BUT I WONDER WHAT THE COUNSELLOR IS UP TO IN EDO.

and at Ishiyama Hongan Temple...
In Kyoto, in the Yoshizaki-gobo temple of Echizen, in the siege of Ise Nagashima...
They remembered how they would drink like this so often in the past.


ABSENCE MAKES THE HEART GROW FONDER. I GUESS.

THEY CAN'T DO A THING. EVEN IF THEY DID, I'D CRUSH THEM IN AN INSTANT
OKUBO TADACHIKA, SAKAI, DOI, AOYAMA, AND NAITO. HIDETADA'S CONFIDANTS ARE ALL SMALL TIMERS.
OH, I KNOW.
DOESN'T HIS RETURN TO EDO MEAN THAT YOU'VE LOST YOUR POSITION?
AND YOU'RE FINE WITH IT?
TO PROTECT YOURSELF?
MORE IMPORTANTLY, ARE YOU PLANNING ON DOING SOMETHING IN THE COUNSELLOR'S ABSENCE...
THAT'S A RELIEF TO HEAR.
HEH
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO? TELL ME!!
NO WAY.
JIROSABURO, IT CAN'T BE ANYTHING DISADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COUNSELLOR YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO CRUSH THE TOKUGAWA CLAN, ARE YOU?
HEHHEHE... VERY GOOD GUESS, YAHACHIRO.

BUT YAHACHIRO, YOU WERE TALKING AS A TOKUGAWA RETAINER.
WHAT DOES A MERE SHADOW WARRIOR HAVE TO SAY TO A GREAT RETAINER?
I WANT TO DRINK WITH MY FRIEND AND TALK WITH MY FRIEND TONIGHT.
W-WHAT?
WHY NOT?
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?
I'LL ASK YOU AS A FRIEND.
I... I UNDERSTAND.
WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT, I WILL FALL ILL.
HUH!?

I WON'T BECOME THE SHOGUN.
AT LEAST NOT FOR A FEW YEARS.
WHAT DO YOU... MEAN?

AH!!
B... BUT THAT IS ONLY STALLING FOR TIME..
THAT'S RIGHT

B... BUT IF A DOCTOR LOOKS AT YOU, HE'D KNOW RIGHT AWAY THAT YOU'RE FEIGNING ILLNESS!
WHAT WOULD A DOCTOR KNOW? OUR LORD USED TO SAY THAT ALL THE TIME, REMEMBER?

BUT IF I AM ILL, I WILL HAVE TO DECLINE.
THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE! WE'VE ALREADY BEGUN OUR MANEUVERS IN THE IMPERIAL COURT! THE EMPEROR WILL SOON GIVE THE ORDER.

UNTIL THE DAY I DIE!!
THEN I WILL FIGHT HIDETADA ...
I WILL STALL FOR TIME AND GATHER GOLD.
AND WITH THAT GOLD, I WILL HIRE MY OWN RETAINERS!

Knowing this, through Kai's influence [illegible] saburo hired the former Takeda ninjas gathered by Okubo Chōan, the man selected as the magistrate of the warm Silver Mine, to guard Fushimi Castle alongside Kaji's female ninja

[illegible] successfully obtained, the Iwami Silver Mine at the reassignment coun[illegible] This was [illegible] confidant's [illegible] hands [illegible] feet

ヒュン

ズズ

Tobisuke of Kai

ゴゴゴ

ゴゴゴ

MGEE EH!
!
COME OUT! COME OUT! THERE'S A THIEF!
T... THIEF!!
In Rokuro of Kai's youth, he would travel to his uncle's house to train in the ninja arts. As Tobisuke's name suggests, he was a master of leaping, and used similar arts to Sanada's ninja Sarutobi. But Tobisuke had now aged to well over sixty
STILL, NOW
TO THINK HE WOULD BE HIRED HERE. BUT IT SEEMS THAT TOBISUKE OF KAI IS NO LONGER THE MAN HE WAS
THAT'S MY UNCLE, WHO I HAVEN'T SEEN SINCE THE BATTLE OF MT TENMOKU. !

YOU MUST NEVER LET THAT HAPPEN AGAIN!
LISTEN, TOBISUKE!!
YES, M'LORD. I... I UNDER-STAND.
AH!
GATHER ALL THOSE WHO ARE SKILLED.

IT'S ME!
IT REALLY IS YOU, UNCLE!
!?
UNCLE!
I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING, BUT THIS REALLY IS A PROBLEM.
WHOOPS, I CAN'T STAY HERE!
THE IGA AND KOGA RULE THIS AGE.
THE TAKEDA NINJA GOT SEPARATED AT MT TENMOKU, AND ONLY WE OLD ONES ARE LEFT
AHH HHH HH!
CAN'T YOU TELL?
THE HELL ARE YOU?
Y...YOU'RE ALIVE!
R... ROKURO! IT'S REAL-LY YOU, ROKURO!

N...NOT SO LOUD, IDIOT!
SHHH HH!
HUUUU UUH? I...IE- YA...
THE TRUTH IS, YOU SEE...
I WOULD LOVE TO WORK THERE. I'M WORKING AS A HUMBLE SWORDSMITH NOW.
THAT SOUNDS NICE
HEHEHE... YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT
YOU'RE GUARDING LORD TOKUGAWA IEYASU...?
WITH PLEASURE.
I COULD PUT IN A WORD FOR YOU.
FACT IS, I WAS JUST LOOKING FOR SOME YOUNGER FOLK.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE IT A TRY?

Shadow Warriors: Tokugawa Ieyasu

Chapter Forty Seven

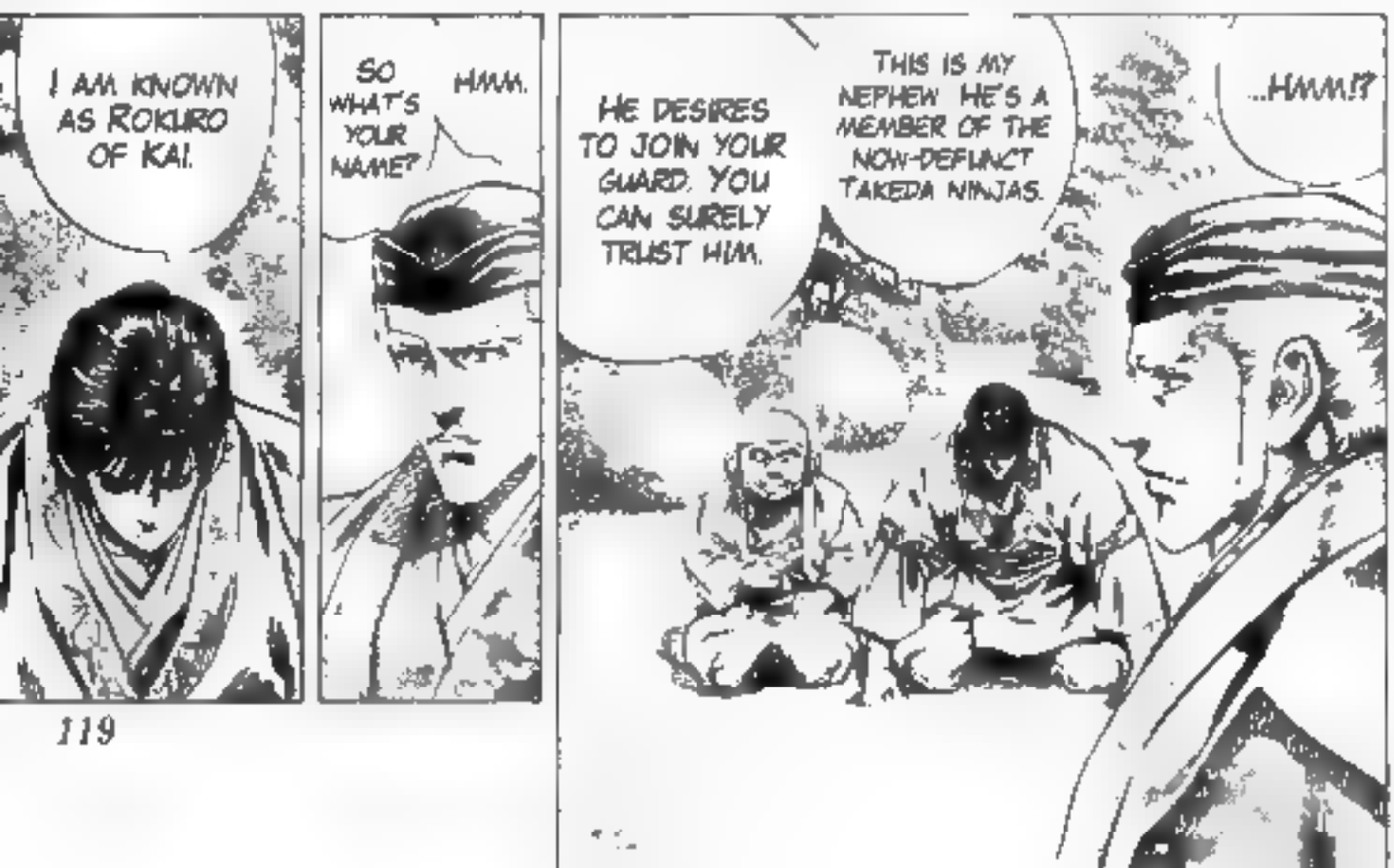
Presented by Hokuto no Gun
Translated by SystematicChaos
Proofread by Wright
Edited by Akuromaiu

Chapter 48: The Assassin...!?

.....
!
!?
WHAT IS IT?
AH-HA...
I SEE.
YOU WILL MEET THEM LATER. AFTER ALL, YOU WILL BE COMRADES.
IT'S THE GUARDS... THEY'RE ALL TAKEDA NINJAS...
WHAT IF THE SHADOW WARRIOR RECALLS "THAT"!? "IT WAS MY BLADE THAT PIERCED IEYASU ON MT. MOMOKUBARI."?
I HAD MY VISOR DOWN. SO HE CAN'T HAVE SEEN MY FACE
BUT I CAN'T DISGUISE MY ARMORED BODY. IT WOULD BE DISASTROUS IF HE NOTICED

YOU SEEM TO HAVE BEEN IN A GOOD MOOD SINCE YOU TALKED WITH LORD YAHACHIRO.
HMM? REALLY?
LORD SAKON'S MADE ME DO SOMETHING OUTRAGEOUS. IF HE NOTICES THAT I'M FROM THE ISHIDA, HE'LL HAVE ME EXECUTED ON THE SPOT
HMM!? WHAT IS IT, KAJI?
TEEHEE HEE..

MY LORD!
I FEEL SO MUCH BETTER NOW THAT I'VE RESOLVED TO FIGHT HIDE-TADA.
RIGHT


I AM KNOWN AS ROKURO OF KAI.
SO WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
HMM.
HE DESIRES TO JOIN YOUR GUARD. YOU CAN SURELY TRUST HIM.
THIS IS MY NEPHEW. HE'S A MEMBER OF THE NOW-DEFUNCT TAKEDA NINJAS.
...HMM!?

RAISE YOUR HEAD.
I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
!
YES, MY LORD!

NOW I'VE MANAGED TO INFILTRATE THE CASTLE.
EXCEL-LENT YOU PASSED
YES.
I FEEL LIKE I'VE SEEN HIM SOME-WHERE BEFORE
It had been Kaji's idea to increase Jirosaburo's wealth by appointing Okubo Choan as the minister of the Iwami Silver Mine.
NO, IT'S ALL THANKS TO OFUU AND THE NINJAS OF KANTO.
YES.
AND IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU, KAJI...
NOW WITH LORD HIDETADA IN EDO,
I SUPPOSE HIS SURVEILLANCE WILL BE A LITTLE SLACKER.

BUT WHERE... HAVE I SEEN HIM...?
WE'LL NEED TO GIVE HIDETADA A HARD TIME...
IT'LL BE EASIER CREATING SECRET RETAINERS FOR OURSELVES.
WITH THE SILVER MINE IN OUR HANDS...
!
.....
WE'LL HAVE TO WORK REAL HARD TOGETHER, WON'T WE, JIROSABURO?
HEY!
HEHEHE ... THAT'LL BE FUN.
I WONDER HOW LORD HIDETADA WILL REACT
AHH!
AH! YES!
JIROSABURO!
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
COME ON!

M... MY LORD!
AT FIRST I THOUGHT YOU WERE IEYASU.
BUT YOU DID NOT BITE YOUR NAILS.
THEY CALL ME ROKURO OF KAI.

THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT THAT WAS THE MAN THAT ASSASSINATED LORD IEYASU!
BUT WHAT IS THAT MAN DOING AT MY SIDE?
WHAT IS IT?
I-... IT'S HIM!
FOR WHAT REASON HAS ROKURO OF KAI INFILTRATED FUSHIMI CASTLE?
TO BE MY GUARD OR TO ASSASSINATE ME...?
SO DOES ROKURO TRULY WISH TO JOIN MY GUARD? BUT UNDER WHOSE ORDERS...?
NO, THAT'S UNTHINKABLE NINJA HOLD NONE AS THEIR LORD SAVE THEIR CLAN'S CHIEF. NOTHING CAN BE FURTHER FROM A NINJA'S MIND THAN VENGEANCE FOR AN EMPLOYER
DOES HE SEEK VENGEANCE FOR ISHIDA MITSUNARI?

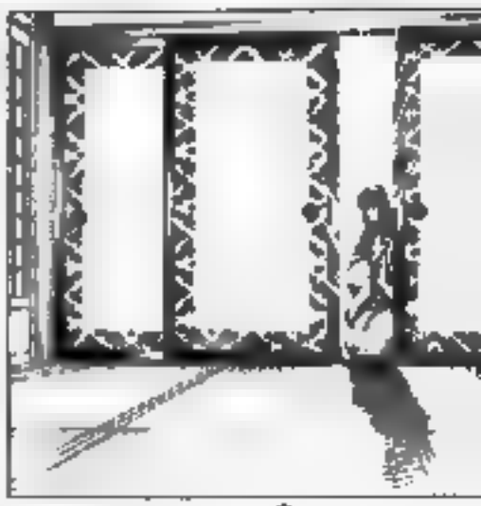
BBH!
HMM MM.
FROM THE CURRENT STAND-POINT, IT MAY BE HONDA TADAKA-TSU OR HONDA YAHACHIRO.
IT'S NOT HIDETADA.. HIDETADA WOULD HAVE USED ONE FROM IGA OR KOGA.
BUT THOSE TWO DON'T USE NINJAS.
MMRGH. MMRGH.
MMMMM MNGH.
THAT'S RIGHT THERE'S NO POIN" IN HINKING ABOU" "
I w GO ASK HIM
KAJI SURE IS CUTE.
HEH..

HUH ...?
NO, THAT'S NOT SHOWING FAVOR. IT'S JUST THE OPPOSITE! IF HE KNOWS THE NAME OF WHOEVER'S LURKING IN THE CEILING, HE'LL BE ABLE TO REGULATE HIS ACTIONS AND HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH HIS CONCUBINES AND RETAINERS
BUT WHY?
LIKE I SAID, THE LORD IS SHOWING FAVOR TO US!
HUH !?
AFTER ALL, HE'LL BE MORE RELAXED IF HE KNOWS WHO'S ABOVE HIM THAT NIGHT!
HE TOLD ME TO WRITE DOWN THE NAME OF THE CEILING GUARD EVERY NIGHT TEN DAYS IN ADVANCE!

WHICH MEANS HE!
THIS MEANS THAT IEYASU IS TAKING PRECAUTION AGAINST SPECIFIC NINJAS!

HUH?
LET'S... SEE..

NO, THERE'S ONE MORE HERE
YOU EVEN HAD THE NIGHT GUARDS STAND DOWN. NOW WE'RE ALONE IN THIS BEDROOM



BUT ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?

!?
COME DOWN, ROKURO
COME ON.
THANK YOU.
NOT BAD.

HUH !?
THIS MAN CALLED ROKURO IS QUITE COMPETENT
THIS MAN... IS THE GUARD...!
I THOUGHT WE COULD SPEAK EASIER WITH A LITTLE WINE.
.....!?
HE'S THE MAN WHO KILLED LORD IEYASU.
AFTER ALL...
HUH!?...

YES, MY LORD..
DON'T BE FOOLISH, NOW.
T...THIS MAN KILLED LORD IEYASU..?
DIDN'T I COME HERE TO PROTECT HIM?
WHAT AM I THINKING?
IF YOU WERE GOING TO KILL ME, YOU WOULD HAVE DONE SO LONG AGO.
PICK IT UP.
WHAT IF AN ASSASSIN CAME IN AT THIS SECOND?
He placed his sword on the ground as a sign that he was not hostile.
HE TRUSTS ME EVEN THOUGH HE KNOWS I KILLED IEYASU?
!?
YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE HERE TO PROTECT ME.

WHY DID YOU KILL LORD IEYASU?
BECAUSE THOSE WERE MY ORDERS.
WHOSE ORDERS?
I CANNOT SAY.

I WAS A DRIFTER BEFORE I BECAME A SHADOW WARRIOR. I KNOW THAT NINJAS CAN'T SPEAK THEIR EMPLOYERS' NAMES.
I KNOW THAT MUCH.
!!
OF COURSE YOU CAN'T
HEH ...

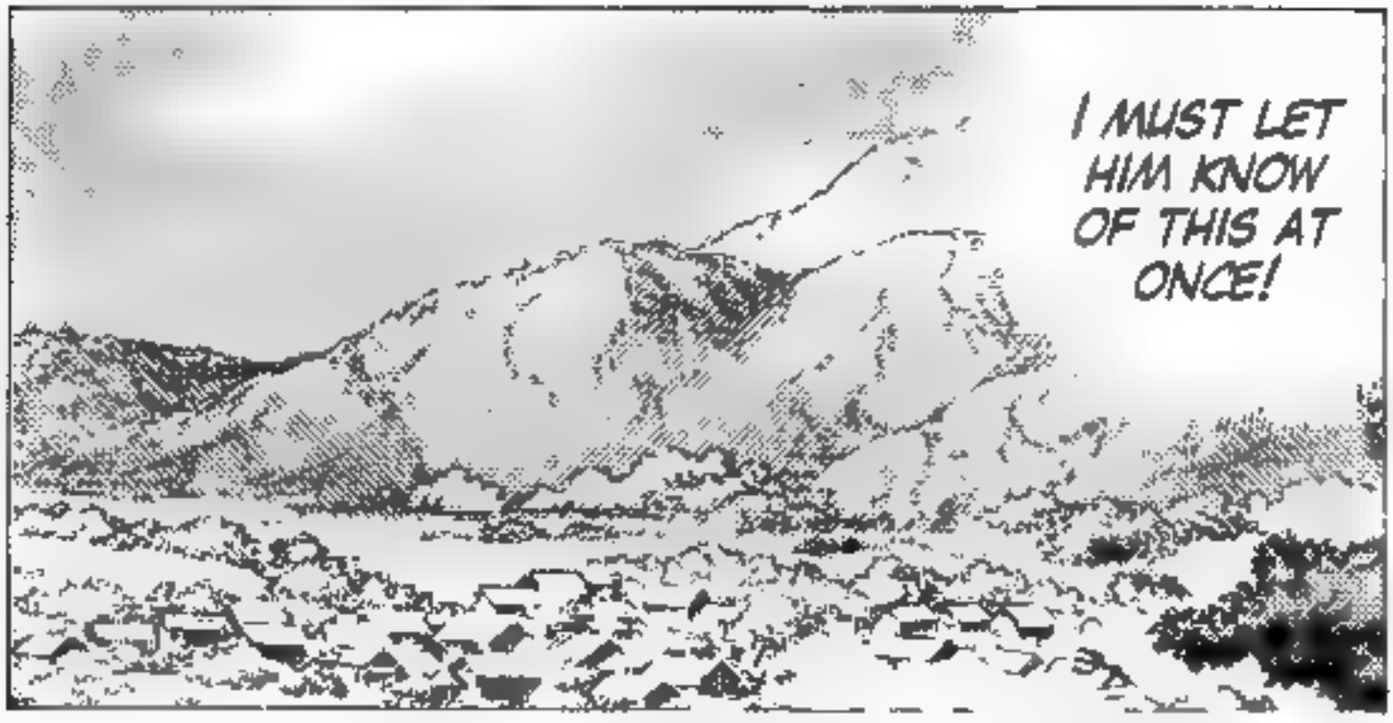
AND YOU.
AND AMONG THE MEN, THERE IS JUST THE COUNSELLOR, HONDA YAHACHIRO, THREE SAMURAI GENERALS, ONE PAGE
NOT THEIR CHAMBER MAIDS, HOWEVER.
DON'T WORRY THE WOMEN ALREADY KNOW
...!

There is a saying... "Wear your heart on your sleeve and place it within others'."
WAH HAHA HAHA HAHA HAHA!
W...WHY WOULD YOU TRUST ME.?
Rokuro felt as though a great weight had fallen on his shoulders.
BECAUSE YOU ALREADY KNEW, DIDN'T YOU?
WELL, I'LL BE ...
Ninjas find themselves unable to resist such people. Because their own lives are full of scheming, they can not handle people like this... The fact that Rokuro was acting on every word of Shima Sakon is proof enough.
In other words, it means to have deep trust.
This means to leave your sincerity in others' hearts.
WHO HAS HIRED YOU NOW?

THEY HAVEN'T HIRED YOU TO KILL ME?
NO.
IS IT TO PROTECT ME?
YES.
SO THAT'S HOW YOU GOT CLOSE TO ME. WAS THAT YOUR OWN INSIGHT? OR YOUR EMPLOYER'S?
HEHE ...
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN THE ONE THAT ATTACKED TOBISUKE OF KAI THE OTHER DAY ..
I THOUGHT THAT MIGHT BE THE CASE..
!!
YES.
TO PROTECT LORD HIDEYORI.
FOR WHAT REASON ARE YOU PROTECTING ME!?
WELL THEN
.....

THE TOKUGAWA HAVE ALREADY ENTERED OSAKA CASTLE, AND THE CONFERRAL OF HONORS WILL HAPPEN ANY DAY. THERE'S NO TELLING WHEN THEY'LL GET RID OF THE SHADOW WARRIOR
LISTEN, ROKURO. NOW THAT LORD MITSUNARI IS DEAD, THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO PROTECT LORD HIDEYORI.
AND THAT IS TO PROTECT THE CURRENT LORD IEYASU!
!
.....
!
WOULD YOU LET ME MEET HIM?
IF POSSIBLE, I'D LOVE TO HAVE HIM AS MY ASSOCIATE
WHY NOT !?
WHAT? I CAN'T?
THEN THAT MAKES SENSE.
I SEE.
.....
SOUNDS LIKE A GREAT MAN.
YOUR EMPLOYER...
THAT'S RIGHT. HE'S AN ISHIDA WHO MUST HAVE SOME MEASURE OF FAME.. HE MUST BE A MAN WHO'D BE ARRESTED ON SIGHT IF DISCOVERED IN FUSHIMI CASTLE.
!

I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MEN. THEY DON'T HAVE TO BE NINJAS, AS LONG AS THEY SEEM USEFUL IN YOUR EYES.
DON'T REFUSE IT THAT SILVER IS FOR GATHERING PEOPLE.
NO...
HERE'S SOME SILVER. TAKE IT WITH YOU.
WHAT A MAN.
THEY MAY BE DEDICATED, BUT THEY ARE FAR TOO OLD.
CREATE A TEAM APART FROM TOBISUKE AND HIS MEN.
?
TELL HIM I MUST SEE HIM.
BY THE WAY, I REALLY DO WANT TO DISCUSS SOMETHING WITH YOUR EMPLOYER, SO PLEASE THINK OF A WAY.
I, THE MAN THAT KILLED LORD IEYASU.
WELL, I'LL BE
HAVE BECOME A CONFIDANT OF THE FAKE LORD IEYASU.


I MUST LET HIM KNOW OF THIS AT ONCE!

HMM...

AND WHY DO YOU THINK SO?
JIROSABURO WISHES TO GATHER ASSOCIATES.

DO YOU THINK THAT'S ALL?
BECAUSE HE WANTS TO SURVIVE...?
HE'S GOING TO DO SOMETHING. SOMETHING OUTRAGEOUS.
? ?
BUT I KNOW IT WILL SHATTER THE EARTH!
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT IT IS,

WHAT IS HE THINKING...?

WE CAN'T MISS THIS!
DON'T BE CARELESS, NOW!
ゴオオ
ゴオオ

However, Jirosaburo left quite the conspicuous trail on his way to Edo. He'd pass the days in falconry with those he met along the way.

October 12
Keicho year 6

Jirosaburo left Fushimi Castle for Edo.

By the time he entered Edo, it had been 24 days since he left Fushimi.

Honda Yahachiro Masanobu was the surprising one.

As a bureaucrat to the root, one would think he would try to arrive in Edo as soon as possible once they decided to go.

But in fact, this was all to grasp the situation. He had all the ninjas of Kanto in action at once.

LOOK, YAHACHIRO! YOU REALLY HAVE BEEN SHUT OUT!

AN INCIDENT ...

!!

IF AN INCIDENT OCCURS, HE'LL BE IMMEDIATELY EXPOSED AS IMPOTENT! HE'LL BE SHAKEN UP!

AND THAT'S WHERE I COME IN.

NNGH ...

IT'S ALMOST COMPLETE. ISN'T THAT A SHAME, YAHACHIRO?

THE COUNSELLOR HAS DONE MOST OF THE DIVISION OF EDO HIMSELF

HMPF. THAT'S JUST ON PAPER.

!!

Shadow Warrior: Tokugawa Ieyasu

Chapter Forty Eight

Presented by Hokuto no Gun
Translated by SystematicChaos
Proofread by Wright
Edited by Akromata

Chapter 49: Lady Man's Conception!

UNTIL NOW, I'VE NOT BEHELD THE SUN FROM MY FATHER'S SHADOW CAST OVER ME! THIS IS WHAT I AM CAPABLE OF!
HEHEHE. YOU'LL BE SO SHOCKED WHEN YOU SEE THIS, YAHACHIRO...
THIS IS MY POWER!

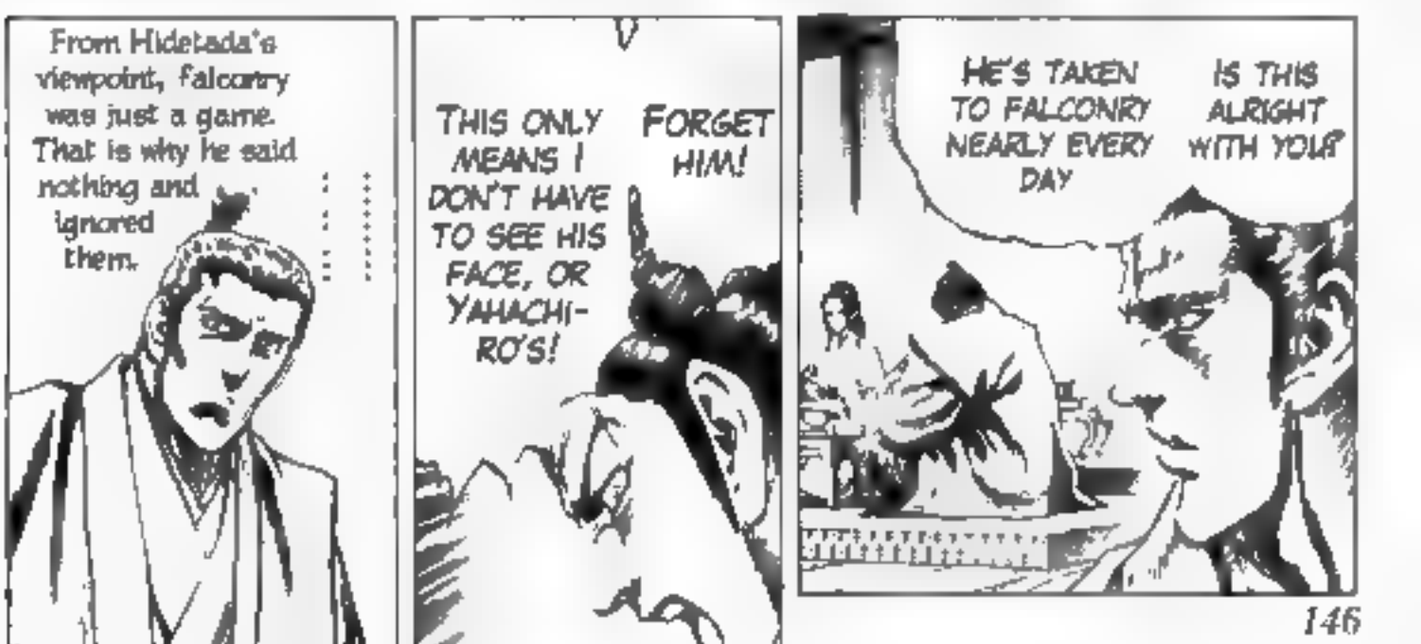
Chapter 49: Lady Man's Conception!

W... WHAT ?
!?
The fire that started in Suruga ended up burning most of Edo to the ground.
Hidetada predicted that he could start a Shogunate that year.
The city Hidetada had poured seven months of labor into building went up in smoke in but a single night
Hidetada had already ... prepared the division ... Edo which would be the core ... the new Shogunate ... the previous war ... while he was ... in Osaka Castle

YOU HADN'T PREPARED FOR DISASTERS WHATSOEVER! YOU WERE TOO CARELESS!
HOW COME THE ROOFS WERE ALL THATCHED?
DO YOU THINK THAT'S ENOUGH OF AN EXCUSE?
THE FIRE SPREAD TOO FAST?
UHH...
D... DAMMIT... I SHOULD'VE AT LEAST SHINGLED THE ROOFS...
DO YOU THINK THE TOKUGAWA ADMINISTRATION WILL LAST LONG WITH YOUR METHODS?
D..DAMN YOU, YAHA-CHIRO!
W... WELL...
WHY DID YOU ACT ON IT WITHOUT CONSULTING A SINGLE ONE OF YOUR RETAINERS?
BESIDES, THE DIVISION OF EDO WAS SUCH A GRAVE MATTER!

.....
KOH
ENOUGH, YOU FOOLS !!
WE SHALL FALL ON OUR SWORDS ...
W...
GOVERNMENT IS NO GAME!
IF YOU KEEP UP YOUR PLANS AND WHIMS, YOU WILL ONLY CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR THE CITIZENS AND PEASANTS!
WHAT GOOD WILL DYING DO? WE MUST HAVE HONDA YAHACHIRO PLAN THE REBUILDING, AS THE HEAD MAGISTRATE OF KANTO!
.....
YOU DID THIS, DIDN'T YOU, JIROSABURO?
:D DAMN... I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT I CAN'T OPPOSE YAHACHIRO! DOES THIS MEAN I'M NOT FIT TO BE SHOGUN?

Jirosaburo remained in Edo Castle from November 5, Keicho year 6, until January 19, Keicho year 7.
Arson was one of the specialties of the Kanto ninjas.
S. SORRY
During this time, Jirosaburo focused his energy on falconry.
It was a short span of two months.

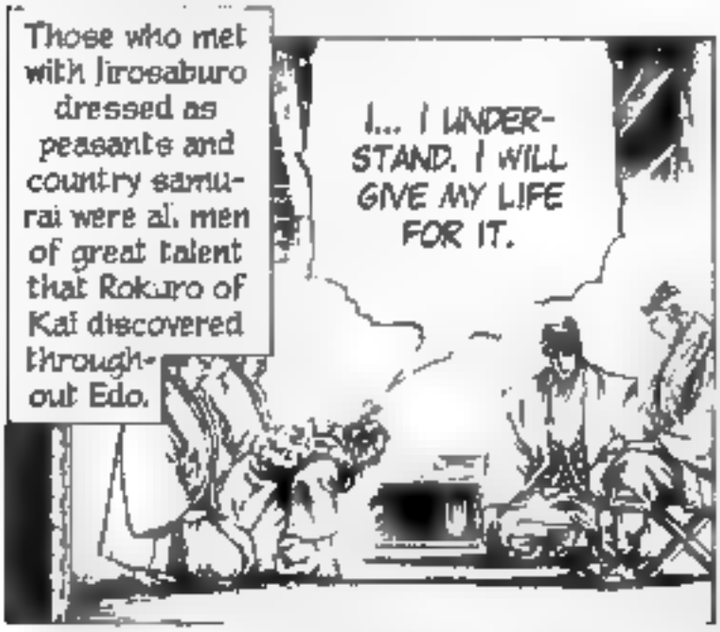

From Hidetada's viewpoint, falconry was just a game. That is why he said nothing and ignored them.
THIS ONLY MEANS I DON'T HAVE TO SEE HIS FACE, OR YAHACHI-RO'S!
FORGET HIM!
HE'S TAKEN TO FALCONRY NEARLY EVERY DAY
IS THIS ALRIGHT WITH YOU?

WAS A CHIEF OF PICKPOCKETS. HE HAS AGREED TO FOLLOW YOUR ORDERS IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS LIFE
I HEAR HE IS FREQUENTLY GRANTING BOONS TO THE PEASANTS.
YES.
IS OUR LORD SPEAKING WITH THE PEASANTS AGAIN?
But in fact, this was just a façade.
THIS MAN
THAT'S QUITE GREAT OF HIM.

NOW THEN, I WANT YOU TO FIND A WAY TO KEEP BANDITS FROM ENTERING EDO.
GOOD.

YOU CAN USE A MAN LIKE ME, LORD IEYASU?
D... DO YOU REALLY THINK...

CAN YOU DO IT?


Those who met with Jirosaburo dressed as peasants and country samurai were all men of great talent that Rokuro of Kai discovered throughout Edo.
I... I UNDERSTAND. I WILL GIVE MY LIFE FOR IT.

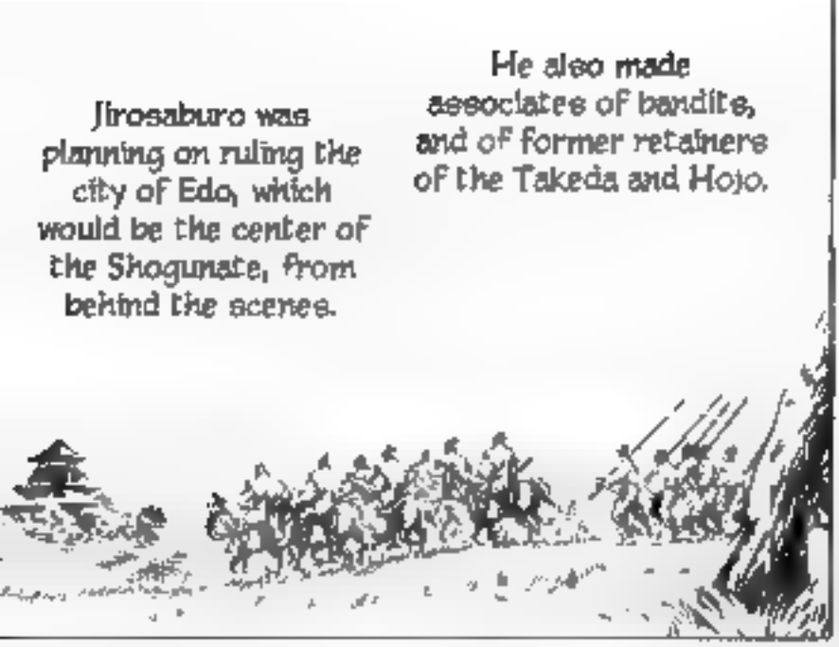
I WANT YOUR SUPPORT I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
YES.

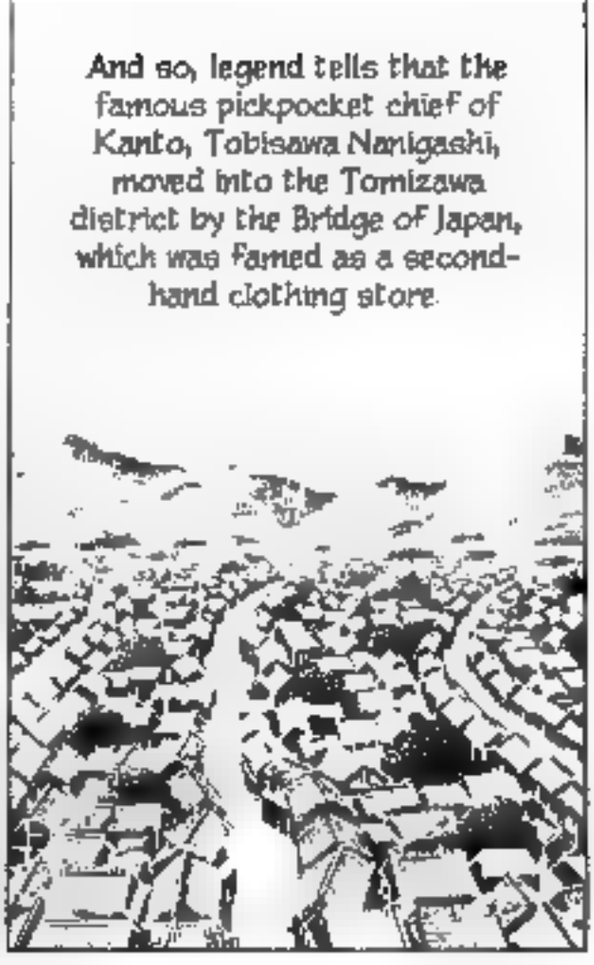
HOWEVER, MY UNDERLINGS WILL NEED A LEGITIMATE OCCUPATION. SO YOU WILL NEED TO APPOINT ME AS MANAGER OF A SECOND-HAND CLOTHING STORE
IF YOU WILL PROVIDE ME WITH A MANSION AND LET MY UNDERLINGS LIVE THERE, WE WILL INVESTIGATE THESE BANDITS.

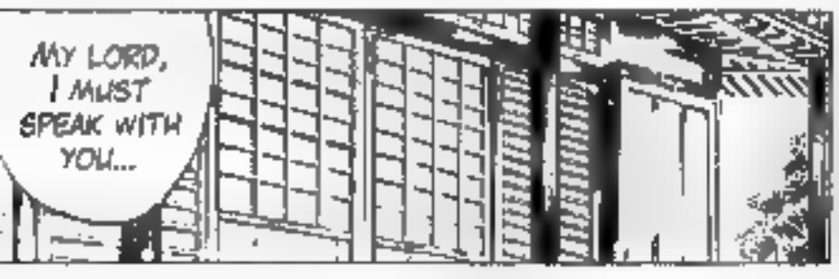
Jirosaburo was planning on ruling the city of Edo, which would be the center of the Shogunate, from behind the scenes.

He also made associates of bandits, and of former retainers of the Takeda and Hojo.

And so, legend tells that the famous pickpocket chief of Kanto, Tobisawa Nanigashi, moved into the Tomizawa district by the Bridge of Japan, which was famed as a second-hand clothing store.







A Shadow Warrior was truly a shadow, never allowed to show his face separately in public. Otherwise, he'd serve no purpose. He could not falter in duty, his thoughts filled with a wife and children, so he had to remain single. Jirosaburo never even considered fathering his own children.

YEAH...
HMM.
WHAT IS THE MATTER, JIROSABURO?
TODAY'S NOT MY TURN TO SLEEP WITH YOU
OH, MY! HOW COULD I FORGET? I HAVEN'T GOT ANY WINE READY!
THAT YOU CAME TO SEE ME!
BUT I'M HAPPY
...R... REALLY?
SHE WILL BE BACK SOON.
I HAVE TO TELL HER.
GET SOME WINE READY FOR MY LORD!
OFUU!
YES.

THE TRUTH IS...
HMM MMM...
ARE YOU NOT FEELING WELL...?
BUT... I THOUGHT TODAY WAS ACHA'S DAY

MAN IS PREGNANT ...
WITH MY CHILD..!

I. I'M SORRY
..THERE'S NOTHING TO APOLOGIZE FOR. IS THIS NOT A JOYOUS OCCASION?

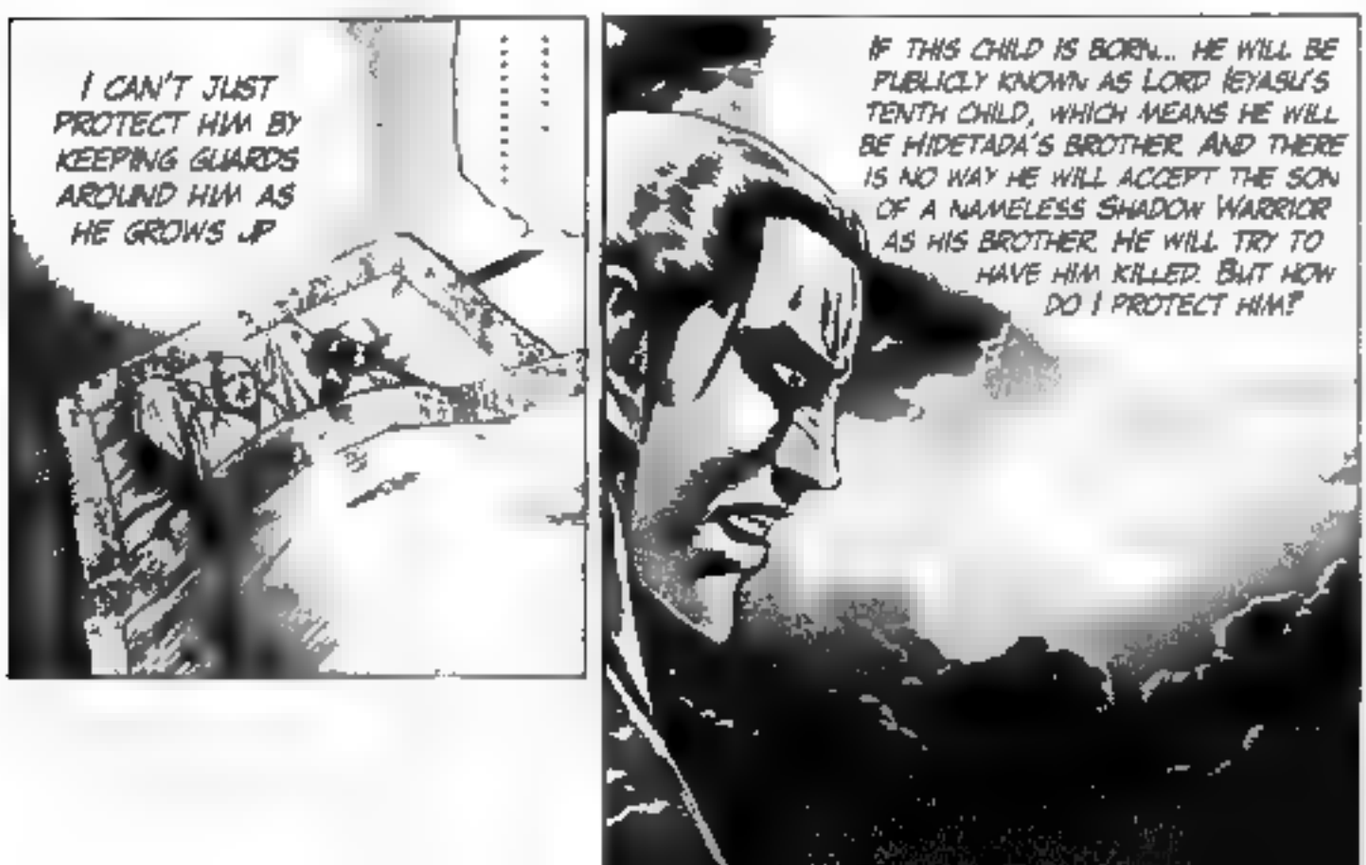
I'VE NEVER FELT THIS HAPPY BEFORE.
I MEAN, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A CHILD, JIRO-SABURO.
TEEHEEHEE... THIS IS STRANGE.
KAJI ...
IF HE'LL RESEMBLE... LADY MAN.
OR ...
I WONDER IF HE'LL RESEMBLE YOU.
I'M SURE YOU WILL HAVE A PRECIOUS CHILD...

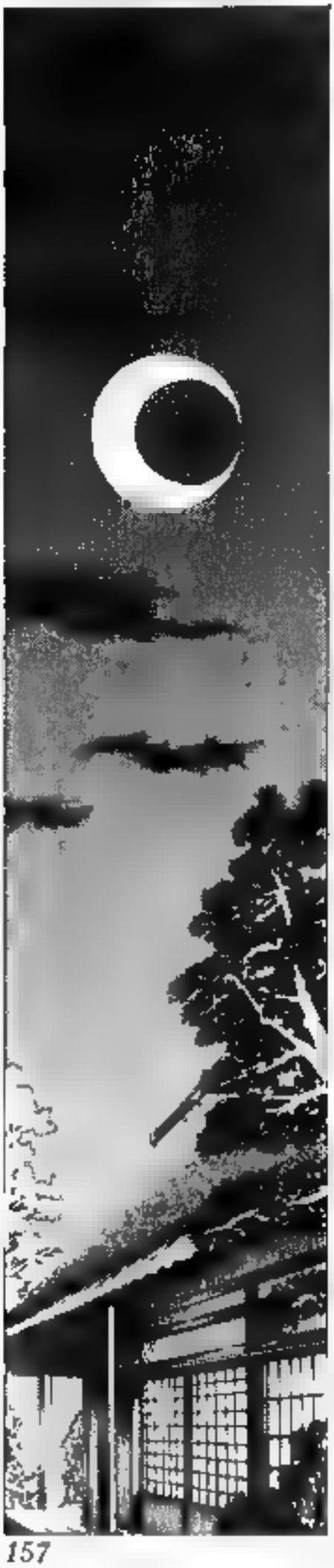
I'M SO... HAPPY, B... BUT I'M..
OH, WHAT IS WRONG WITH ME?
CRYING
L... LADY KAJI!
I-...IT'S FINE TO CRY.
I-... IT'S FINE.
WAA AAA AAA AAA AAA AH !
IT'S OKAY ...

However. Ironically, by a cruel twist of fate, Lady Man would bear a son (Yorifusa), while Kaji and Jirosaburo would have only a daughter (Ichihime) and no sons.

THE CHILD SHALL BE FORCED TO SHOULDER AN EXTRAORDINARY FATE. HIDETADA IN PARTICULAR WILL SEE HIM AS A FOE
I WANTED TO HAVE A CHILD WITH YOU, KAJI.
I'M SORRY, TOO. BUT I WANT YOU TO TRUST ME WHEN I SAY THIS WAS NOT MY INTENTION.
!
...I'M SORRY. I FEEL BETTER NOW THAT I'VE CRIED.

WHY I WANTED YOU TO HAVE MY CHILD..
THAT IS ALSO
T...THEN I WILL PROTECT HER AND HER CHILD!
YES... I'M SURE YOU CAN DO IT!!
THEN HIS LIFE
AHH !!
YES, IT WILL BE IN DANGER
AND MAN DOES NOT HAVE THE MEANS OF PROTECTING HER CHILD.
I'M SO HAPPY.

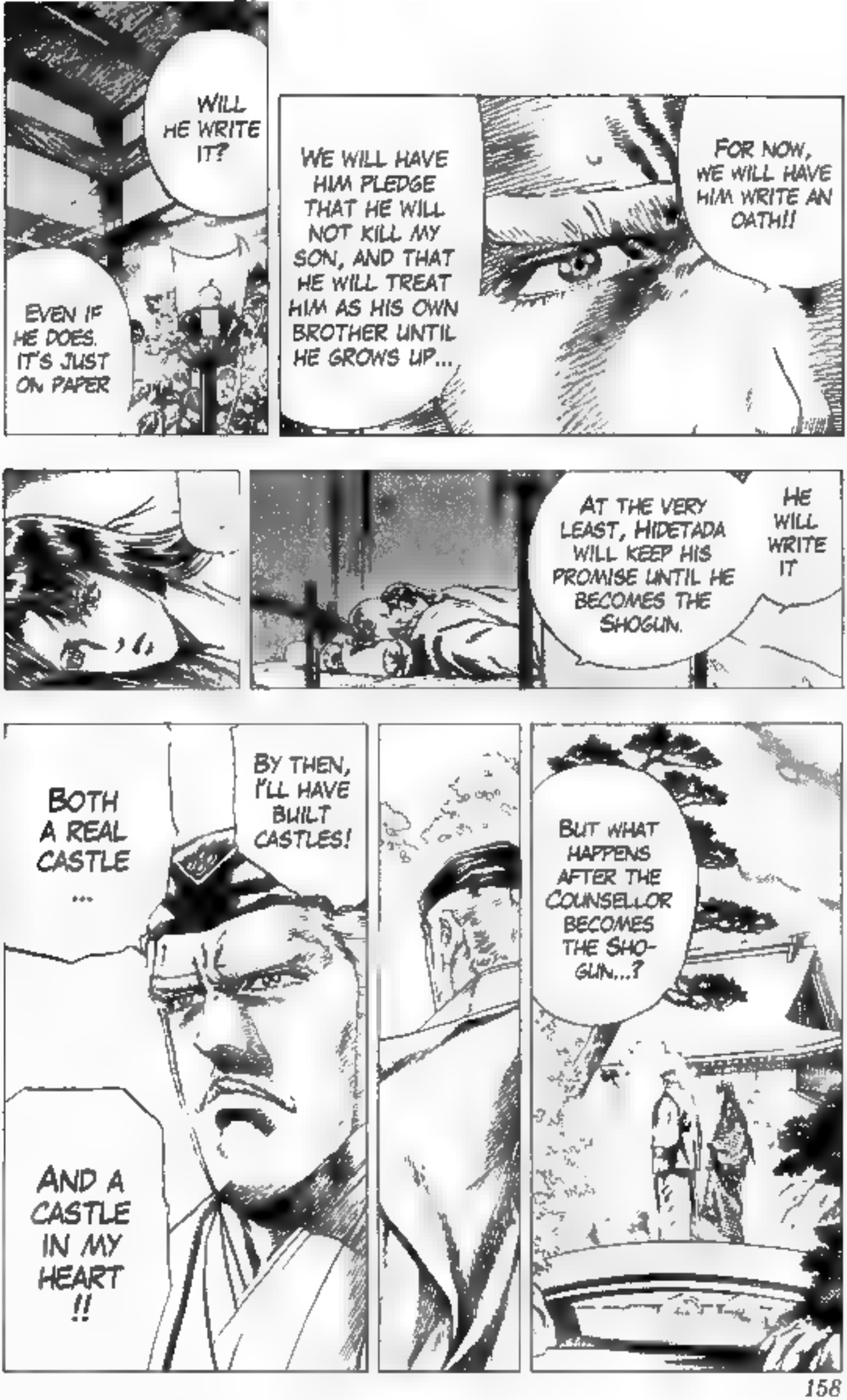

I CAN'T JUST PROTECT HIM BY KEEPING GUARDS AROUND HIM AS HE GROWS UP
IF THIS CHILD IS BORN... HE WILL BE PUBLICLY KNOWN AS LORD IEYASU'S TENTH CHILD, WHICH MEANS HE WILL BE HIDETADA'S BROTHER. AND THERE IS NO WAY HE WILL ACCEPT THE SON OF A NAMELESS SHADOW WARRIOR AS HIS BROTHER. HE WILL TRY TO HAVE HIM KILLED. BUT HOW DO I PROTECT HIM?



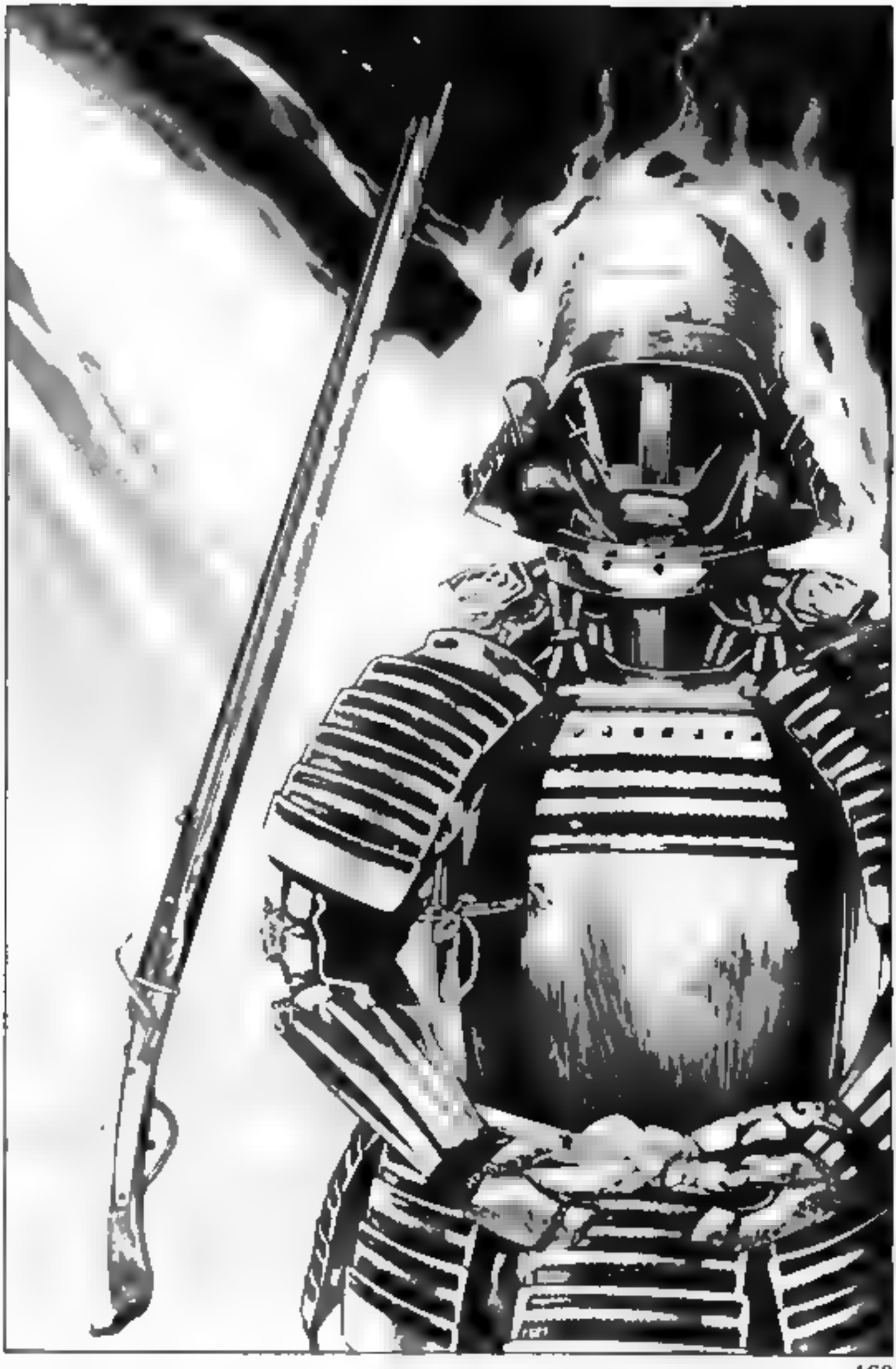
I MUST DO WHATEVER I CAN TO PROTECT MY FIRST CHILD, WHATEVER THE COST...
WHAT DO I DO?

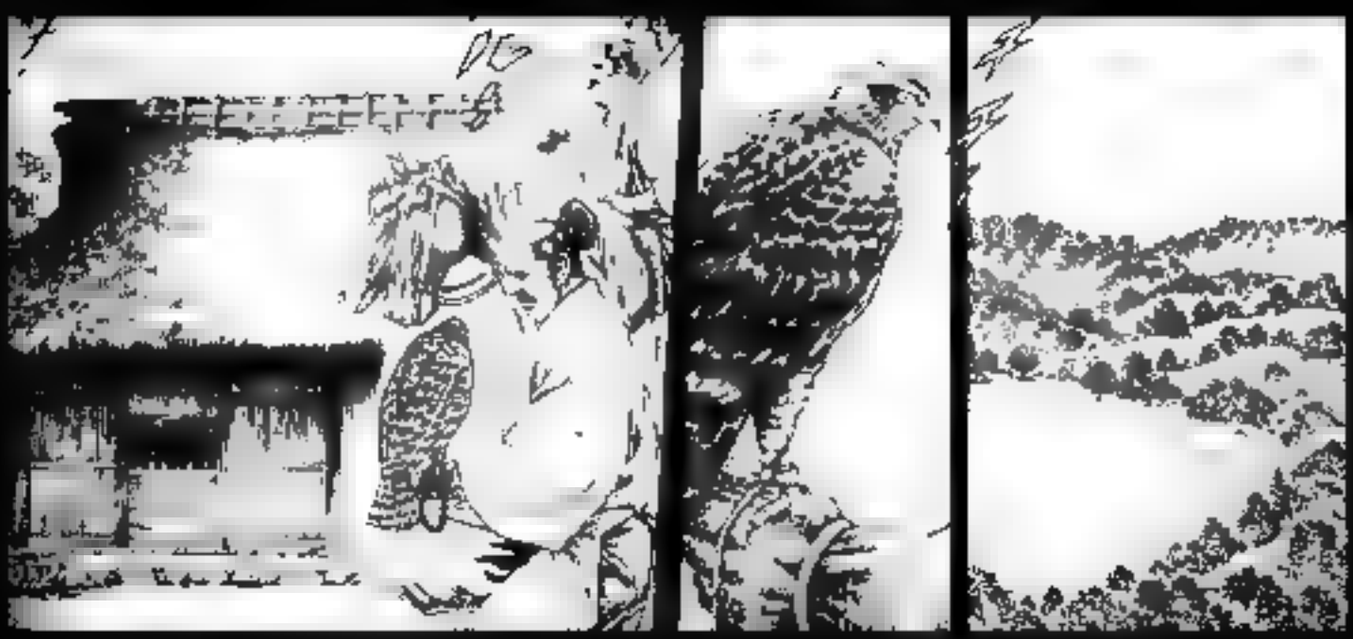
I'M JUST TOO ANXIOUS
NO...
YOU CAN'T SLEEP?

HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF ANYTHING...?
YES.


WILL HE WRITE IT?
EVEN IF HE DOES. IT'S JUST ON PAPER
WE WILL HAVE HIM PLEDGE THAT HE WILL NOT KILL MY SON, AND THAT HE WILL TREAT HIM AS HIS OWN BROTHER UNTIL HE GROWS UP...
FOR NOW, WE WILL HAVE HIM WRITE AN OATH!!
AT THE VERY LEAST, HIDETADA WILL KEEP HIS PROMISE UNTIL HE BECOMES THE SHOGUN.
HE WILL WRITE IT
BOTH A REAL CASTLE ...
BY THEN, I'LL HAVE BUILT CASTLES!
AND A CASTLE IN MY HEART !!
BUT WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE COUNSELLOR BECOMES THE SHO-GUN...?

!!
YOU CALLED ...?
ROKURO... I HAVE A REQUEST FOR YOU.
A CASTLE IN YOUR HEART ..?
THAT IS TRUST...
THE TRUST OF MY LORDS AND THE MASSES. AS LONG AS THEY BELIEVE THAT LORD IEYASU IS TO BE TRUSTED
HE CAN NEITHER KILL ME NOR MY SON.
Kyoto
WHAT..? A CASTLE IN SUNPU?
YES. AND HE WANTS YOUR EXPERT OPINION, LORD SAKON.
OHHH
SO THAT MAN IS BUILDING A CASTLE IN SUNPU.



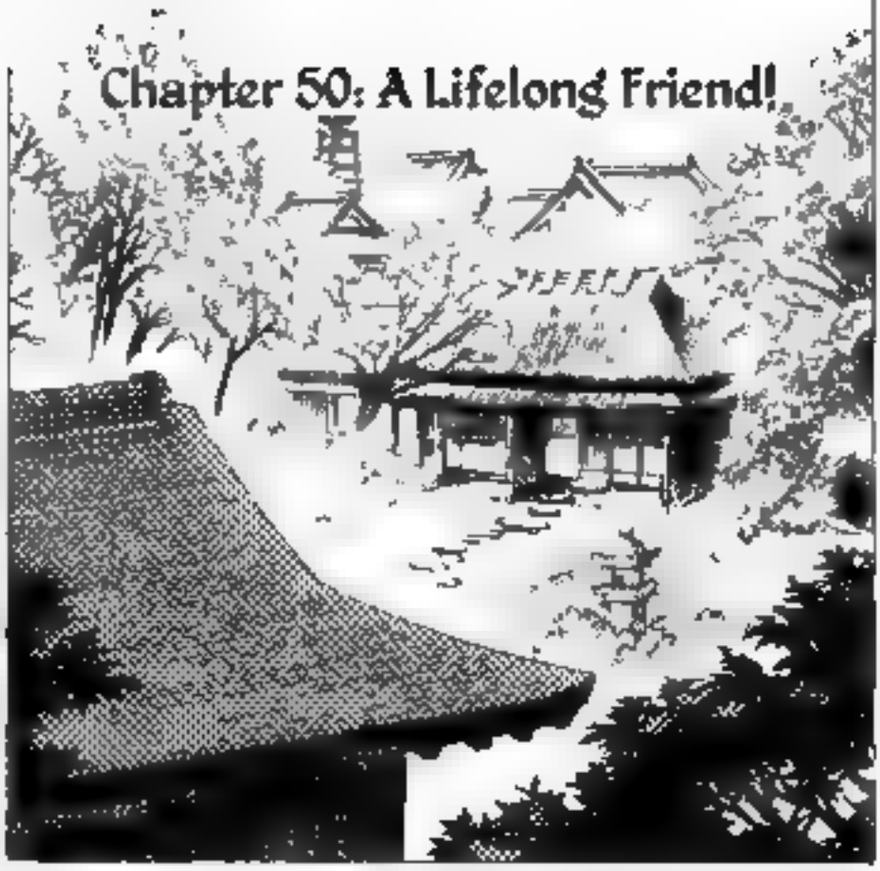


Shadow Warrior: Tokugawa Ieyasu

Chapter Forty Nine

Presented by Hokuto no Gun
Translated by SystematicChaos
Proofread by Wright
Edited by Akromata

Chapter 50: A Lifelong Friend!



BUT I AM ASSURED OF HIS EXPERTISE IN CASTLE CONSTRUCTION, SO WE HAVE HIRED A MAN FAMILIAR WITH THE GEOGRAPHY TO PROVIDE AN EXPERT OPINION ON SUNPU...
HMM
HE HAS FOUGHT EVERYWHERE, EVEN IN KOREA, BUT HE IS SOMEWHAT UNFAMILIAR WITH KANTO
LET'S SEE. MY LORD HAS WANDERED AROUND THE COUNTRY

Chapter 50: A Lifelong Friend!

Sunpu

PHEW
..
This man was a former Christian samurai that Rokuro found in the Kawara district of Kyoto; he was born with a strong sense of direction.
Harada Ichirobe
THIS TOWN WON'T DO AT ALL!
.....
.....
WELL. TO BE HONEST
HMM!? HMMMM
LORD SAKON, COULDN'T YOU TELL AFTER WALKING AROUND THE TOWN ALL DAY? WHO COULD HAVE COME UP WITH SUCH A STUPID IDEA!?
IT WOULD BE CRAZY TO BUILD A CASTLE HERE!
.....

THIS TOWN IS DIVIDED BY ALL THOSE BRANCHES! IT'S ALMOST LIKE A DELTA!
THE KITA RIVER, THE YOKOO RIVER, THE IMO RIVER, AND THE INA RIVER...
THAT'S RIGHT!
THE ABE RIVER?
AT ANY RATE, IT'S THIS RIVER!
THIS RIVER IS THE PROBLEM!
IT'S SIMPLY NOT POSSIBLE TO DEVELOP THIS INTO A CASTLE TOWN! LOOK, IT WOULDN'T LAST AN INSTANT IN A FLOOD!
THIS PLACE WAS CALLED FUCHU. AND FOR MANY YEARS...
IT SERVED AS A BATTLEFIELD BETWEEN THE IMAGAWA, THE TAKEDA, AND THE TOKUGAWA.

IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE RIVER, I WOULD GLADLY CONSENT!
I'M FAR MORE FAMILIAR WITH THESE LANDS! AND THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT THAT RIVER!
Y... YOU'RE JOKING!
THERE MUST BE SOME REASON HE'D CHOOSE HERE. SUNPU WAS HIS BIRTHPLACE, SO HE MUST KNOW SOMETHING.
NO, THERE MUST BE SOMETHING.

DO YOU MIND DRAWING ME A MAP OF THE CITY?
?
?
HUH !?
THAT'S WHAT HE WAS THINKING!
THAT'S IT!
AH, IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE RIVER !!
THEREBY MOVING THE RIVER.
AND THIS EMBANKMENT WILL SERVE IN PLACE OF A STONE WALL.
駿府城
WE CREATE AN EMBANKMENT HERE AND CHANGE THE RIVER'S FLOW.
NOW, LISTEN.
THIS COMPLETES THE DEFENSE TO THE WEST HERE!
IN OTHER WORDS, IT WILL PROVIDE AN ENCLOSURE TO THE GREAT CASTLE OF SUNPU.
WHA ..?
THAT'S RIGHT THE ABE RIVER WILL BE A MOAT
THE ABE RIVER'S EMBANKMENT?
HUH !?

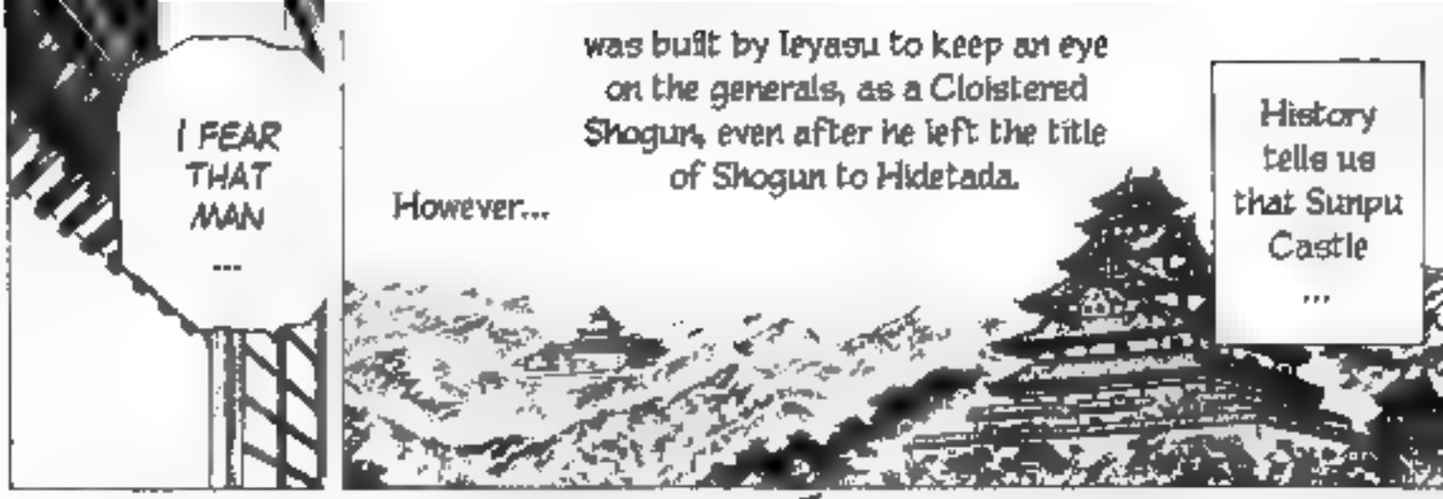
THE TOKUGAWAS' GOAL IS TO RID THE DEFEATED GENERALS OF THE WESTERN ARMY LET'S SEE, STARTING WITH MORI OR SHIMAZU. OF ALL THEIR WEALTH.
WE'RE NOT PUNDING THIS OUT OF THE TOKUGAWAS POCKETS, EITHER
B BUT THAT'LL REQUIRE TREMENDOUS CONSTRUCTION! THE EXPENSES WILL BE ENORMOUS! IT'S TOO CRAZY!
OH, DON'T BE SO STINGY
WE'RE NOT PUNDING THIS OUT OF YOUR POCKET
19

As Sakon predicted, from this moment onward, the division of Edo, the reconstruction of Edo Castle, the reconstruction of Nagoya Castle, the division of Sunpu, the construction of Sunpu Castle, and al. following construction projects, would serve not only to drain the wealth of the generals defeated in Sekigahara, but the generals indebted to the Toyotomi. And the massive construction required in creating an embankment large enough to divert the Abe River was, as Sakon also predicted, assigned to the Shimazu clan of Satsuma.

This was what the "Revised New Topography of Suruga Province" referred to as the "Satsuma Embankment"

THERE'S THE SEA. THE BAY OF SURUGA.
AND TO THE SOUTH ...
駿河湾
HMM. THERE'S THE ABE RIVER TO PROTECT THE WEST
WHAT KIND OF MAN COULD HAVE THOUGHT OF THIS?
T THIS IS INCREDIBLE!

THERE'S THE GOLD MINE OF KAI!!
YES. AND TO THE NORTH
HUH!? TRADE!?
THIS WOULD MAKE TRADE WITH EUROPE POSSIBLE
...I SEE!
IS THE GREATEST FORTRESS OF THE NATION, MT HAKONE!! IF WE CAN BRING THAT UNDER CONTROL...
AND TO THE EAST ...
IT'S OPTIMAL FOR SURVIVING WITH AS FEW PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE!
Mt. Hakone
WITH THE GOLD MINE OF KAI AND TRADE WITH EUROPE TO STORE UP WEALTH, AND THE ABE RIVER AND MT. HAKONE TO STRENGTHEN THE DEFENSES...
IT WILL BE AN IMPREGNABLE LAND!
Kai Gold Mine
Abe River
THIS IS AMAZING!
Bay of Suruga

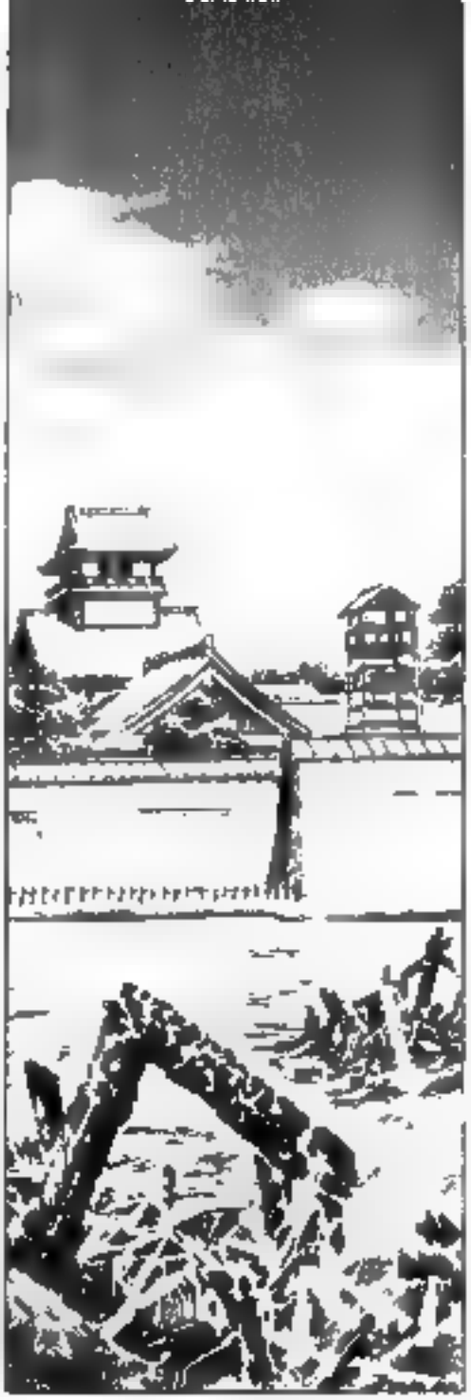

I FEAR THAT MAN ...
was built by Ieyasu to keep an eye on the generals, as a Cloistered Shogun, even after he left the title of Shogun to Hidetada.
However...
History tells us that Sunpu Castle ...

WAR AGAINST EDO?
HUH?
AGAINST HIDETADA IN EDO CASTLE!
CHOSE THIS LAND TO WAGE WAR...

HAS THE POTEN-TIAL OF A GENERAL!
THAT MAN ...

THIS IS JUST MY CONJECTURE, BUT IF THIS MAN FITS MY PREDICTIONS...
HOW COULD HE DO SOME-THING SO DREADFUL?
I- IMPOS-SIBLE!

WHAT !?



WE HAVE DETERMINED THAT TO BE THE CAUSE OF THE FIRE.
YES.
ARSON ?
THE FLAMES WERE IGNITED FROM MANY DIFFERENT SIDES.

ISN'T HE JUST ENJOYING FALCONRY? WHAT COULD HE DO?
!?
HE SEEMS TO BE GREETING A WIDE VARIETY OF PEOPLE WHILE ON HIS FALCONRY

IS THE SHADOW WARRIOR!
BUT THE ONE WHOSE ACTIONS ARE MOST ABNORMAL

I FEAR THAT IT WAS THE WORK OF A LARGE GROUP.

THERE ARE BUT A LIMITED NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT COULD
J...JUST WHO WOULD DO SUCH A THING?
HUH...? B... BUT...

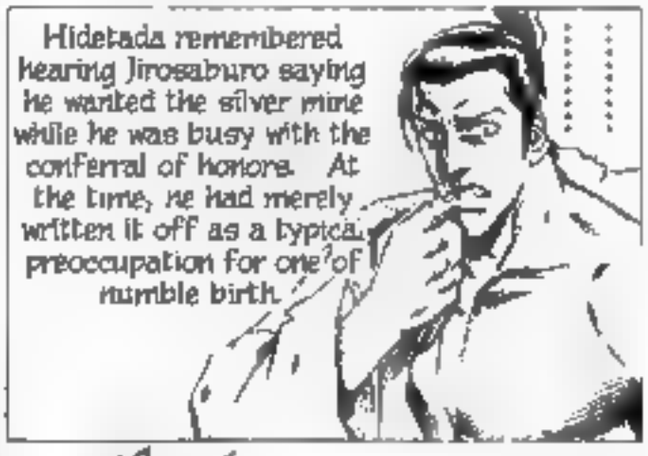
OF ALL THOSE WITH A REASON TO BEAR A GRUDGE AGAINST YOU... HE'S THE ONLY ONE...
WHAT'S MORE, THE SHADOW WARRIOR HAS OBTAINED THE IWAMI SILVER MINE.

!!

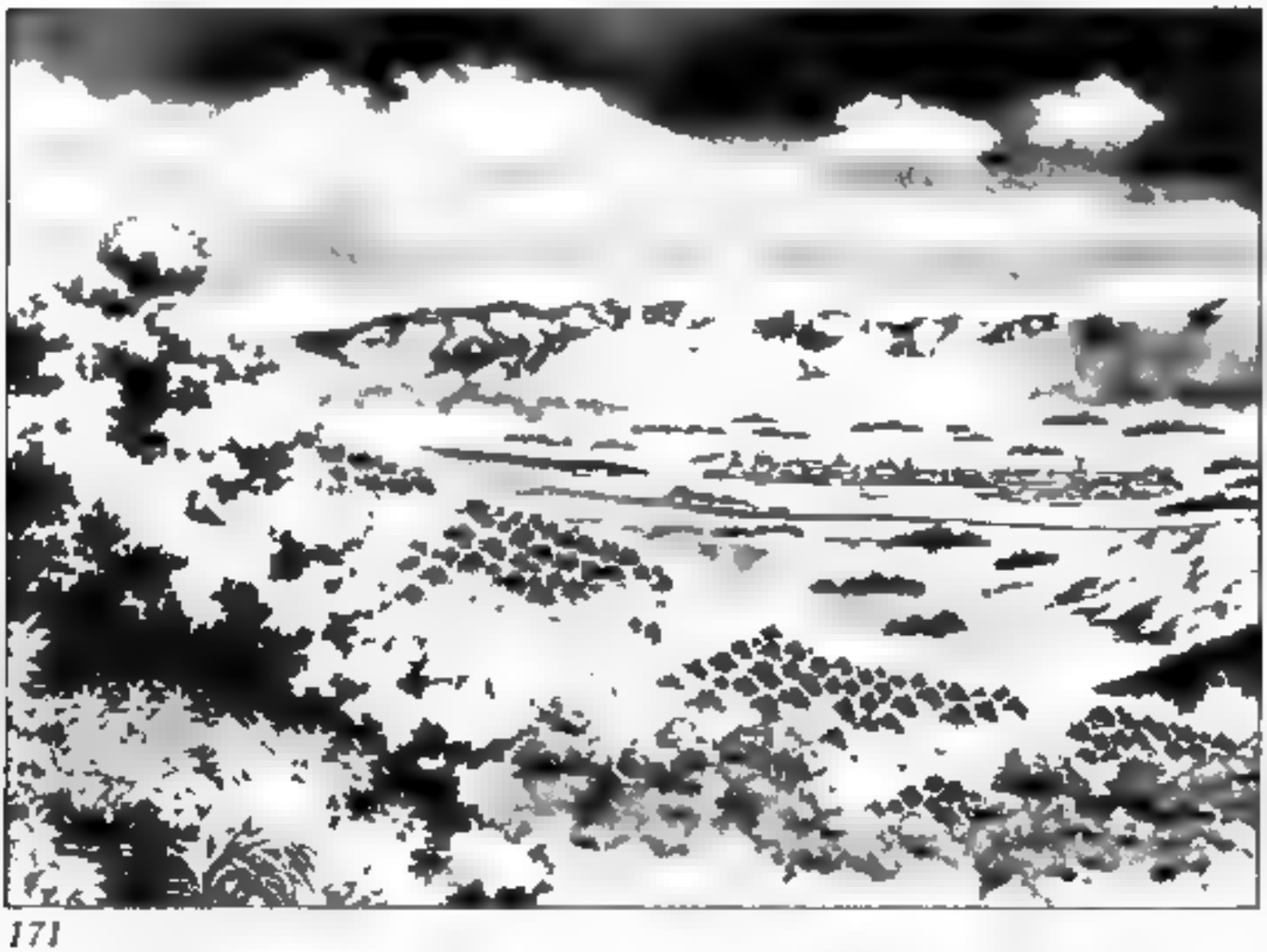
IS THAT TRUE !?
HUH?
YES... MY MEN HAVE BEEN OBSERVING HIM.

LEAVE HIM BE FOR NOW I'LL DEFINITELY SEIZE HIM BY THE TAIL.
NEXT TIME HE MEETS WITH SOMEONE, I WILL EXPOSE HIM.

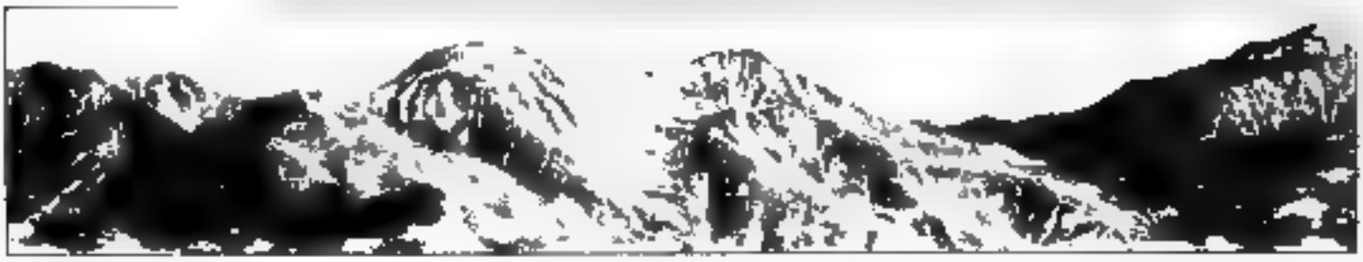
THAT BASTARD !
DAMN HIM !


Hidetada remembered hearing Jirosaburo saying he wanted the silver mine while he was busy with the conferral of honors. At the time, he had merely written it off as a typical preoccupation for one of humble birth.

IT WAS HIM !
I-...IT WAS HIM !



HEH. THE FOOL...
FALCONRY ON SUCH A MISTY DAY?



DO I ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO MEET HIM TODAY?
ROKURO ...

...BUT...
IF I CLAIM TO BE GOING OUT FOR FALCONRY ON SUCH A MISTY DAY, THE YAGYU WILL NOTICE...
I AM WELL AWARE OF THAT
YES
.....
HE MUST MEET YOU, WHATEVER IT TAKES, MY LORD.
HE APPEARS TO BE MAKING CONTACT WITH SOMEONE IN THAT CABIN.
I SEE
...
YES. DON'T DROP YOUR GUARD.
WHAT IS IT!?
WHOEVER HE TRIES TO VISIT IN DISGUISE, I WILL EXPOSE HIM!

HE'S HERE.
!
!
SOME-THING'S COMING !!
WHERE !?
KCH
WHERE IS HE?
H... HE'S CLOSE
D..DAMN, THIS FOG'S SO THICK WE CAN'T SEE!

HO OO RYA AAA AAA AAH !!
!?
OUT OF MY WAY !!
W WHAT!?
C... COULD THAT BE !?
A... A MOUNTED SAMURAI!

STOP DAWD-LING!!
A... AFTER HIM!
YES, SIR!
HUH!?
W... WHAT!?
!?
!
GWAA AH!
UGGH!
WAAH! ARROWS ...!!
KOH!
UWAH!
GYAA AH!

LOOK!
KCH... THOSE FOOLS!
THEY'VE FALLEN RIGHT INTO THEIR TRAP...
SOME-ONE'S COMING!
S. STAND BACK, MY LORD.
M. MY LORD!

.....
THIS IS MY MASTER.
IT'S YOU ...
I-

Y... YOU'RE ALIVE... L... LORD SHIMA SAKON...

I'M GLAD YOU SURVIVED.
NO ...

I HAVE BEEN LIVING IN DISGRACE

ゴゴゴ

YOU MAKE THE PROTECTION OF THE TOYOTOMI CLAN MORE THAN A MERE DREAM...
THERE IS NOTHING MORE REASSURING THAN THIS.

TOGETHER ...
...TO PROTECT LORD HIDEYORI
AND TO BATTLE WITH HIDETADA ...

This was how the Shadow Warrior Serada Jirosaburo met with his foe on Sekigahara and his lifelong friend, Shima Sakon. And this was the beginning of their sixteen-year battle with Hidetada to establish the Tokugawa administration...

Part 1: FIN

– END

スペシャル対談!!

歴史を超えた歴史を描く!!

隆慶一郎の世界

「花の慶次」「影武者徳川家康」の原作者で日本を代表する歴史作家の故隆慶一郎先生!!

先生の小説世界の魅力に迫る!

静岡にある小和田哲男先生の御自宅を訪問した原哲夫先生!　隆慶一郎先生が描き続けた壮大な歴史観とその作品世界について、隆先生に魅せられた二人が熱く語り合いました。

原　僕が隆慶一郎先生とお会いしたのは、「花の慶次」の漫画連載がきっかけなんですが、小和田先生は?

小和田　私が隆さんに一番最初にお会いしたのは、「影武者徳川家康」の執筆前のこと。事前にいろいろ聞きたいと、私が親しかった静岡新聞の方からの紹介でした。今からもう十年以上も前の事ですよ。

原　ああ、その話は僕も隆先生から、お聞きしたことがあります。それが小和田先生とは……。何でも、隆先生は、考えているストーリーを全部話して、問題ないか、聞かれたとか。

小和田　ええ、こういう話なんだけど、どうかと尋ねられました。「花の慶次」にしても、「影武者徳川家康」にしても同じことが言えるのですが、歴史というのは、百パーセント完全に資料が残っているわけではないんです。だから、学問

としては現在残っている資料からわかることしか言えないんですよ。それだけに、残っていない歴史の部分を掘り下げる意味でも、隆さんには大いに筆をふるってもらいたいと激励した思い出がありますよ。

原　そういえば、隆先生の書かれた本には、よく「道々の者」というか、一般的なふつうの人が描かれていますよね。

和田　ええ、そうですね。日本の歴史の〝人〟の見方というのは、定住することが大前提。水田で米を作って暮してはじめて〝一人前〟の人というとらえ方が多いんですが、隆さんの描く世界は必ずしも、そうじゃない。いわゆる、〝漂泊〟の人々をテーマとして扱っていることが多いんです。かえって、歴史的に教えられる見方があったりしますね。

原　「花の慶次」の前田慶次も表舞台には出てこない人物ですよね。

静岡大学教授
小和田哲男

昭和19年、静岡県生まれ。昭和47年、早稲田大学大学院文学研究科博士課程終了。現在、静岡大学教育学部教授。文学博士。日本中世史、なかでも戦国史を研究。主著、「戦国武将」「豊臣秀吉」「軍師・参謀」（いずれも中央公論社）など著書多数。

漫画家
原哲夫

昭和36年、東京都生まれ。昭和57年、「鉄のドンキホーテ」でデビュー。以来、熱き男の闘いをテーマに斬新な作品を発表し続けている。主な代表作に、「北斗の拳」「サイバー・ブルー」「花の慶次―雲のかなたに―」「影武者徳川家康」などがある。

小和田　ええ、そうです。我々学者の立場から言うと、慶次は全くわけのわからない人物の一人。どんなにくわしい人名辞典でも、十行も説明があればいい方なんです。

原　隆先生も、慶次の資料はたったこれだけ、とレポート用紙一枚をヒラヒラと…。まぁ、だからこそ逆に、イメージはふくらむんですが…。

小和田　そうですよね。「花の慶次」のように"傾奇者"をキーワードにして、戦国の世を語るのは、おもしろい切り口だと思います。封建制のきっちりとした上下制が出きあがりつつある時代、自由に生きれた"最後の戦国武士"的イメージが、慶次にはあると思いますよ。

原　武士というと、江戸時代の質素で上下関係のきっちりしたもののイメージが強かったんですが、それとは違うんですよね、この時代は。

小和田　ええ、海外へも平気で出ていくぐらいですから。

原　そうなんです。そういったエピソードを聞き、ドラマにするとおもしろい時代だなと知った時、絵に、漫画にしたいなぁと思いましたね。

小和田　戦国時代は才能を生かせた時代、だけど、江戸時代は才能よりも秩序を重んじた時代、ここに大きな変わり目があるんです。その時代を題材に、隆さんは"自由"を重んじて書かれたように思います。「歴史は結果だけで判断してはいけない」という私の意見に強く同感してくれた隆さんですから……。

原　なるほど、僕の漫画のつくり方もそれに通

じるところがありますね。だからかな、隆先生の世界にはとても入りやすかったように思いますよ。

小和田　隆さんも以前はシナリオライターなどをやっていて、映画人であり、自由人でしたから――。「影武者徳川家康」なんかを読むと、普通、家康の話なら、クライマックスにくる関ケ原の戦いから始まっている。隆さんらしい書き方だと思っています。

原　「花の慶次」の題名を決める時にも、〝花〟があるのはいいねと言って下さったし、〝雲のかなたに〟という副題も、雲は自由だから、といってらっしゃった……。僕もそんな隆先生の世界を大切に、〝結果〟が全てではなく、夢の部分を大切に描いていきたいですね。

小和田　期待してます。「影武者徳川家康」の連載も頑張って下さい!!

原　ありがとうございます。頑張ります。

作家 隆慶一郎

大正12年生まれ。東大仏文科卒業後、東京創元社の編集に従事。その後、中央大、立教大の教壇でフランス語を教える。中央大学助教授を退職後、シナリオライターとして活躍し、シナリオ作家協会賞も受賞している。又、小説も執筆。平成元年、第二回柴田錬三郎賞を受賞し将来嘱望されるも同年死去。

隆先生の作品リスト

「影武者徳川家康」「吉原御免状」(以上、新潮社刊)「柳生非情剣」「捨童子　松平忠輝」(以上、講談社刊)「花と火の帝」(日経新聞社刊)「かぶいて候」「一夢庵風流記」(以上小社刊)他多数。

隆先生のJC作品

JC　花の慶次
―雲のかなたに―
全18巻!!

JC
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週刊少年ジャンプ特別編集
H6年9月1日増刊号掲載

■ジャンプ・コミックス

影武者徳川家康

6 生涯の盟友！の巻

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Shadow Warrior: Tokugawa Ieyasu

Chapter Fifty

Presented by Hokuto no Gun
Translated by SystematicChaos
Proofread by Wright
Edited by Akromata

FIGHT TAZMO

To my fellow fans -

Recently, a member of the community named Blud typed out a informative, and well written page that detailed the exploits of Narutofan creator Tazmo.

The point of this was to further spread the awareness of who Tazmo is, what he does, and why it is wrong. However, things like these tend to eventually need updating, and that is why this has been typed out.

What Blud stated is all very correct. However, it must be brought to everyones attention that Tazmo has expanded into full blown, stand alone websites that he has referred to as “revolutionary services”.

http://www.anime-plus.com

and

http://www.manga-plus.com

These websites seek to misinform manga and anime fans across the world into believing that his services are fair, the only one of their kind, and more secure than using other resources such as IRC or BitTorrent to get what you want.

The truth is as follows: Tazmo himself uses IRC and BitTorrent to get the files on his websites. He uses the FREE resources that every single one of you can also use, so that he can charge you various fees for getting what is FREE.

Tazmo is profiteering off of a FREE service provided by various members of the anime and manga community who donate their spare time to bring the latest manga and anime to you for FREE. They donate their time, work, and abilities in various areas, as well as use their own bandwidth to serve files.

There are various FREE ways to get and read the manga you want. There are free online readers such as http://www.onemanga.com as well as http://www.mangahut.com.

There are also resource websites such as http://www.mangahelpers.com, http://www.mangashare.com, as well as database resource sites such as http://www.mangaupdates.com.

There are thousands of people who work thousands of hours weekly to bring you the manga you love to read, as well as the anime you love to watch. They do it not to make a profit, but for FREE as a FREE service to the community that we all love very much. **EVERYTIME TAZMO MAKES MONEY OFF OF THEIR HARD WORK HE NOT ONLY INSULTS THEM, BUT INSULTS ALL THOSE WHO PAY FOR HIS SERVICE. Do the right thing, stop supporting Tazmo.**

Drafted by Kaioh. Inspired by Blud. Free distribution with any release is encouraged.
Fight Tazmo. Put this and Blud's page in your releases to get the word out.